

Gay Community News

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Interview with Academy award-winning filmmaker

DEBRA CHASNOFF page 8



DEADLY DECEPTION

GENERAL ELECTRIC, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
& OUR ENVIRONMENT

Future of BLK in jeopardy; editor injured

By Carrie Wofford

LOS ANGELES—*BLK* publisher Alan Bell was seriously injured in an automobile accident near Oceanside, Calif. on the morning of April 12. Bell, who is the creator and publisher/editor of *BLK*, the monthly African American lesbian and gay news magazine, sustained multiple abrasions and broken bones when his car was struck head-on by a vehicle which had swerved into oncoming traffic.

"Publication of *BLK* magazine will be suspended until a new editor can be found to replace Bell," an announcement from *BLK* Publishing Company, read.

BLK had recently enlarged, gained a glossy, three-color cover and moved to paid newsstand sales. Bell began *BLK* by himself as a desktop throwaway in 1988.

"I'm nervous about what this is going to mean," Bell told *GCN*. "We worked a lot to get *BLK* to this point. I hope we don't lose the momentum we've built over these years. I'm nervous. It really exposes how much I did on getting the publication out. It's really clear that more people needed to be involved."

"It's certainly going to be a great loss," said Robert Ford, creator of *Thing*, a Black gay 'zine in Chicago. "The needs of the Black gay community get missed by both the Black press and the gay press. *BLK* did a lot to make parity on [that front]. They've also done a lot to pave the way for other efforts out there," he said. Ford started *Thing* in November of 1989.

Eric Washington, the New York correspondent for *BLK*, stressed, "*BLK* is certainly not folding. We are suspending publication until we have a new editor.... I'm hoping by summer we'll be back on... schedule." Washington said the excitement *BLK* has generated nationwide should enable the group to find an editor soon.

Bell has undergone eleven hours of surgery since the accident and needs at least one more operation. He suffered no internal injuries, but has casts on both legs and one arm, and has undergone bone grafts. He also suffered a concussion, contusions and heavy loss of blood. Doctors expect Bell to undergo a lengthy period of rehabilitation.

"All I remember is opening my eyes and realizing that I was pinned down," Bell recalled, "and that the car was on fire." Passersby doused the flames with dirt until Bell could be pulled free from the car.

Half a dozen volunteers have rallied to publish the next issue of *BLK*, due to come out at the end of May. But, as Bruce Hunt, one of Bell's roommates and the chief photographer for *BLK*, who is now acting in Bell's stead, said, "Things are real tough.... Alan spent morning, noon and night on *BLK*—18 hours a day. [And] we went through the riots last week and our friend [Bell] is in the hospital." The last issue was published in February. Bell ran *BLK* as a volunteer organization. Neither Bell nor the others involved were paid.

"It takes a huge amount of devotion for us as out lesbians and gay men of color to be involved in making our voices heard," offered Barbara Smith, Black feminist writer/activist and founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. "I hope the situation with *BLK* will make people think and will encourage more people of color to get involved and working on our publications, and that it will also encourage white lesbians and gay men to support our efforts in any way they can."

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Quotes of the week

“The Rodney King verdict delivers one of the most devastating messages we have ever gotten about the valuelessness of Black life in America. But it didn’t come in 1892, it came in 1992. Above all, the events in Los Angeles have made it perfectly obvious why we need a revolution in this country. Nothing short of a revolution, which of course would require eradicating capitalism, will work.”
—*Barbara Smith, Black feminist activist and writer.*

“The lesbian and gay community knows only too well the shock and outrage of being betrayed and battered by those who are supposed to protect our civil rights. We must stand together to protest this travesty of justice.”
—*John Duran and Ken Jones, co-chairs of the California gay lobbying group, Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, denouncing the Los Angeles police acquittal.*

[Look for essays on the Los Angeles acquittal in the next issue of *GCN*.]

Estonia legalizes lesbian/gay sex

BRUSSELS—Estonia became the third country in the former Soviet Union to decriminalize gay and lesbian sex, the International Lesbian and Gay Association reported. On April 21, the Parliament in Tallinn voted to abolish the existing criminalization of anal intercourse between men. The Estonian government has also committed itself to promote the use of condoms by placing condom dispensers in the large cities.
“Without the legalization of gay relations the fight against AIDS will be impossible,” Teet Veispak, an Estonian gay activist and reseacher in sexuality, told the Swedish gay magazine, *Reporter*. “The Estonian government has understood this. And they know that they will have to rise to the European level in these issues,” he said.

—*Carrie Wofford*

New LA police chief questioned

LOS ANGELES—Members of ACT UP/Los Angeles and other gay and lesbian activists here are demanding public input into the selection of former Philadelphia police chief Willie Williams to replace Daryl Gates as the Los Angeles police chief. Williams has accepted the position and will begin this summer.
Activists are concerned by Williams’ actions in a Sept. 12 Philadelphia police riot against AIDS and gay activists who were protesting a Bush fundraiser for Senate candidate Dick Thornburgh (see *GCN*, Vol. 19, No. 10). An independent commission report released in March found that Williams made patently false claims to the media, including stating that protesters had thrown bottles and rocks and that the police had inside information that ACT UP had planned to block the presidential motorcade. The commission also suggested that police reports were deliberately falsified.

ACT UP/L.A. issued a press release after Williams’ appointment detailing Williams’ role in the Sept. 12 riot and decrying the lack of public control over the selection of the new police chief.

Sandra Farrington-Domingue, co-chair of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force, expressed initial satisfaction with Williams after an April 22 meeting in which Williams said he would strive for “inclusion.” Williams reportedly offered to meet with ACT UP, which he allegedly called a group of “terrorists” in Philadelphia. ACT UP criticized Gates, too, for a police riot against AIDS activists Oct. 23, as well as for routine police comments about “fags.” Gates reportedly suggested that police would not “want to work with one [gay or lesbian police officer]” and suggested that gay men were too effeminate for the job.

—*Julie Davids/Au Courant*

Anita Bryant, gay activists clash

BOSTON—Following an 11-year self-imposed exile, Anita Bryant (1959 Miss America Pageant Runner-up and anti-gay crusader) is currently touring the TV talk show circuit promoting her most recent book, *A New Day*. Claiming her “new day” is nothing more than recycled bigotry from her past, gay activists confronted Bryant as she appeared on the local Boston TV show, *People Are Talking* on April 22.

Activists challenged Bryant when she asserted, “it is plain in *Romans I* that you don’t hate the sinner, you hate the sin,” and “I don’t believe in special privileges for people who want to flaunt sin and not repent of it.” Two members of Queer Nation/Boston shouted her down and were forcibly ejected from the studio, while a third activist asked if Bryant wanted to “apologize” to families who lost lesbian and gay teenagers to suicides brought on by Bryant’s vicious homophobia in the 1970s.

Bryant then accused *People Are Talking* host Tom Bergeron and the show’s producers of “setting her up.” Bergeron defended the way he conducted the interview, saying it would be naive for her to think her views are not controversial. Bryant stormed from the studio, refusing to take part in a previously scheduled follow-up radio interview. Bryant’s book details the so-called “double-whammy” of public controversies she suffered—for her anti-gay stands in the 1970s and her difficult divorce.

—*Warren Blumenfeld*

Right asks Bush to stop gay rights

WASHINGTON—George Bush told Lou Sheldon and other evangelical Christian leaders at the White House April 21 that he disagrees with efforts to codify “the homosexual agenda” and gay marriages, but backs the federal law that documents hate crimes (and includes anti-gay and anti-lesbian bias-motivated acts).

The evangelicals met with Bush to ask his help in urging conservatives in Congress to block implementation of the District of Columbia’s new domestic partnership law, the Health Benefits Protection Act, which Mayor Sharon Pratt (Dixon) Kelly signed April 15.

The evangelicals falsely characterized the law as sanctioning gay marriage, to which Bush reportedly said, “I think I would be opposed to that.” The Human Rights Campaign Fund wrote Bush expressing “our serious concern that you were willfully misled by your guests” about the laws’ intentions. Bush does not have veto power over D.C. laws, but his aides could encourage Congress conservatives to debate and overturn the law during its Congressional 30-day review period.

The homophobic zealots also asked Bush to endorse an order opposing federal backing of any activity promoting homosexuality. They reportedly told Bush they consider gay rights a more critical issue than abortion/choice.

—*John Zeh*

Deejay urges killing lesbians

WASHINGTON—A disc jockey for Pacifica flagship station WPFW FM here angered lesbian and gay activists when he played and defended a reggae song advocating “execution” of lesbians. Activists say the incident could exacerbate “ongoing tensions” between lesbian feminists producing the herstoric “Sophie’s Parlor” show and straight males at the supposedly progressive station.

Protesters urged national capital area residents and visitors to “not appear” on air, nor donate money to WPFW. They want an apology. WPFW listener and former volunteer Sharon Farmer said she was outraged when she heard the reggae song “Turth and Fiction” but became livid when host “Papa Wha-Bee” said he “agreed” that lesbians should be annihilated and when WPFW program director refused to discuss it.

—*John Zeh*

Film censored by religious right

NEW YORK—British filmmaker Paul Yule and 15 allies have filed a \$4 million counter-suit here against the American Family Association’s Rev. Donald Wildmon for imposing a stranglehold on U.S. distribution of his provocative *Damned in the U.S.A.*, which explores censorship and disputes over National Endowment for the Arts funding.

Wildmon filed a \$2-to-5 million civil suit in Mississippi in October against Yule for Yule’s juxtaposition of Wildmon with a full-screened penis with the image of Jesse Helms face. Wildmon claims this violates the contract he signed for Yule to include Wildmon in the film, and gives Wildmon the right to approve—or block—each U.S. screening of the film, a right he is exercising until the suit is resolved.

Yule charges that a “done deal” with PBS’ *Alive from the Center* “was scrapped

because of [the] suit.” Wildmon and the AFA run boycotts and letter-lobbying campaigns, raising approximately \$6 million per year to fight “obscenity.”

—*John Zeh*

Philly demands health care

PHILADELPHIA—Approximately 300 demonstrators marched through Center City April 22, demanding support for national health care. Marchers also stopped to protest in front of presidential candidates offices, and staged a die-in at the Federal Building. Organizers from the Health Care for All Coalition and ACT UP/Philadelphia called the march to focus candidates’ attention on the 37 million Americans who have no health insurance. The demonstrators urged the two U.S. senators from Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter and Harris Wofford, to support the Universal Health Care Act of 1992.

Demonstrators also demanded action on the recommendations of the National Commission on AIDS, including appointment of a key executive to provide leadership, commitment of funds for therapy and research, and implementation of a widespread public education program.

—*Julie Davids/Au Courant*

If I were a rich man....

CHICAGO—Four lesbian and gay activists received \$25,000, “no-strings” grants April 6 in honor of their work. The second annual \$25,000 Stonewall Awards, granted by the Anderson Prize Foundation, went this year to: Amy Ashworth, the director of the New York City Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Christian

Haren, the former “Marlboro Man” model and the creator of a program to bring people with AIDS into high schools; Graciela I. Sanchez, director of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center in San Antonio and a filmmaker; and Al Wardell, director of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Last year, Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was a well-publicized recipient of the Stonewall Award.

—*Carrie Wofford*

For the Activist in you

• Write the Attorney General of The Bahamas (see newsnote, page 2), Mr. Sean McWeeney, P.O. Box N3007, Nassau, Bahamas; fax (809) 322-2255; protest the outrageous 20-year maximum penalty for the “crime” of gay public sex.

National

• PROTEST THE ACQUITTAL OF POLICE IN THE RODNEY KING CASE:
1) Write U.S. Attorney General William Barr at 555 Fourth St., NW Washington DC 20001; demand federal prosecution of the defendants and federal investigation of racism and anti-gay bigotry in police departments.

2) Contact groups for protests:
Nationwide: National African American Network/Peoples’ Coalition for Justice(202) 726-0726; Boston: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), (617) 661-6130, or Church of the United Community, (617) 427-8192; Chicago: AFSC, (312) 427-2533; Detroit: Greater Detroit Baptist Assoc. (313) 961-7780; D.C.: National Gay and Lesbian

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AIDS Treatment Notes

Antiviral drugs: ddl and ddC

The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), the federal government branch that researches AIDS drugs (and spends much time rehashing the same old drugs) held its quarterly meeting in April. At the meeting, results were reviewed from a major human study (ACTG #117) of AZT v. ddI—antiviral drugs that interfere with HIV’s ability to reproduce itself—in patients who had used AZT for at least four months (AZT-weary). The survival rate between the two was statistically the same. Those with low T-cells but no major infections who were switched from AZT to ddI (at 500 mg/day) had fewer infections (125-AZT, 94-ddI at 500 mg/day), and a slightly higher T-cell count. This study drove home the logic behind last year’s approval of ddI. While we all know AZT and ddI are tough pills to swallow, it’s about time the research community—the only ones left asking questions about ddI—caught up with activists, FDA (which approved it last year) and PWAs nationwide. ddI provides a critical antiviral alternative to thousands of PWAs. We demand that the research community move toward innovative antiviral approaches and stop doing post-marketing studies of approved drugs at taxpayer expense.

On April 21, 1992, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Antiviral Advisory Committee recommended that ddC (another drug with the same mechanism as AZT and ddI) be approved as an antiviral therapy in combination with AZT. However, the committee stopped short of recommending ddC as a single antiviral therapy for those who cannot tolerate AZT—a qualification with which many in the activist community strongly disagree. However, ddC-manufacturer Hoffman-LaRoche does offer the drug to PWAs on an expanded access program. (Physicians can call (800) DDC-21-HIV.)

Repligen, Inc., KS drug

Cambridge biotech pharamceutical manufacturer Repligen, Inc., has developed a new drug called RPF4, which may be active against Kaposi’s sarcoma (KS). People with KS are usually given cancer chemotherapy drugs, which build up in the body and are extremely toxic. In a Phase I study in humans, Repligen will inject RPF4 directly into external lesions—shockingly, only one lesion per customer—to determine SAFETY only. Repligen has no plans to replace this skin-deep study with a single trial that would look at RPF4’s effectiveness as a systemic KS treatment. We point out that Repligen’s study, as designed, uses people as lab rats more so than any in memory; it offers absolutely no benefit to participants! We strongly encourage Repligen to do the right thing: combine the inhuman Phase I trial (above) with a Phase II efficacy trial, NOW, by comparing treated and untreated lesions—we mean it.

New MAC drug

MAC (Mycobacterium avium complex, also called MAI) is an infection that commonly strikes PWAs with T-Cell counts below 75. MAC causes chronic fevers, night sweats, weight loss and fatigue. The new drug, Rifabutin, has shown some success in preventing MAC. It is now available on an expanded access program (a Treatment IND), free of charge, through its maker, Adria Labs. To obtain the drug on expanded access, physicians can call (800) 552-7228. This expanded access program is limited to prevention only (patients must have no history of MAC), and to PWAs with T-cell counts below 200, among other criteria.

Main source: Resource Library News (617) 437-6200 x432

Preliminary study shows Trental anti-AIDS promise

Trental (pentoxifylline) is an approved drug for use in intermittent claudication (poor circulation). Two teams, one headed by Boston oncologist Bruce Dezube, found anti-AIDS activity in the test tube (which is often promising, but very different from human trials). Dezube presented positive results from a study in humans at the April ACTG meeting. He ran a 27-person study that looked at people with T-cell counts under 300. Although Dezube’s study showed a large decrease in viral load (the measurable amount of virus in a given blood sample), this result conflicts with an earlier study by another researcher. The promise of this drug is based largely on a 1988 study at Dana Farver in cancer patients—an improvement in patients’ sense of well being was reported—and on the fact that the drug is cheap and approved already. While side effects of the drug are rare, they can include bloating, nausea and dizziness. Community Research Initiative (CRI)/New England is beginning to accrue volunteers for a Trental study in Boston, and a similar study is underway at CRIA/New York.

Contact: CRI/New England (617) 424-1524.

—*Compiled by David Peck, a member of ACT UP/Boston’s Treatment Committee. Please address your questions to ACT UP/Boston, P.O. Box 483, Kendall Sq. Station, Cambridge, MA 02142, or better yet, join us! Tuesdays, 7 p.m., YWCA 7th floor, 140 Clarendon St., Boston. For information on ACT UP/Boston meetings, events and issues, call (617) 49ACTUP.* □

New NEA head favors censorship, faces outing

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON—The new head of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) assured Congress May 5 that she will veto funding for erotic art and other proposals that include "difficult subject matter." Anne-Imelda Radice took over the NEA's reins May 1 amidst arts advocates' fear about her conservative politics and a renewed dispute over outing.

Radice's appointment and testimony before a House subcommittee was criticized by artists' advocates as "outrageous." Her appointment signals that controversial work will end up "in a no man's land of funding," warned Charlotte Murphy of the National Association of Artists' Organizations.

Indeed, Radice set as an "immediate priority" the stopping of funds for sexually explicit art in order to save the NEA from "heading toward an abyss," the *Washington Times* quoted Radice May 5.

NEA staffers expressed fear that Radice will exclude progressive panelists who currently make granting decisions. "I'm fearful," said Arnold April, an NEA site visitor and artistic director of Chicago's City Lit Theater Company. "The idea that she has any say over queer or experimental art is appalling. She has no understanding of our lives," he told *GCN*.

Before Radice ascended to the NEA's top post, she was second-in-command to deposed director John Frohnmayer, who defended controversial arts works and grantees funded by the NEA. Frohnmayer blamed his ouster in March on presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan.

In contrast to Frohnmayer, Radice is viewed as a hardline right-winger, a former U.S. Information Agency official with key links to far-right conservatives in Pres. Bush's administration.

Radice is reportedly the NEA official who cut funding for New York's Franklin Furnace Archive Inc. and Tim Miller's Highways Inc. of Santa Monica, Calif., for their explicit sexual content. The grants were eventually restored.

While she pledged to judge grants on a

case-by-case basis, Radice also said the late Robert Mapplethorpe's erotic photographs, which sparked the NEA controversy and a Cincinnati criminal trial in 1990, should have been denied federal funds.

Radice said she would have disapproved funding for *Portable Lower East Side (PLES)*, a literary magazine that used some of its NEA money to publish "Queer City," a special gay and lesbian edition that included Romona (Sapphire) Lofton's graphic poem, "Wild Thing" about a renowned Central Park rape and beating that depicted Jesus as a pedophile.

Radice testified to Congress that the concerns of taxpayers and Congress should "have as much weight" as artistic merit. "The title 'decency czar' is a sad way to describe the role of the chair of the arts endowment," she said. But, "when a decision has to be made, the decision will be made," she warned.

Radice, 44, suggested that congressional attempts to impose restrictions on arts funding are unnecessary because the NEA has "tools... in place" to cut off grants for offensive works.

"The implications of Frohnmayer's dismissal [and Radice's appointment] are incredible," said Christian Gregory of Manhattan's Theater for a New City. "The government's been trying to subvert the NEA for a long time," he charged. "Bush has yielded to the Right. This is a direct threat to individual performance artists, many of whom are gay."

A "fundamental shift" in the NEA's mission is obvious, said veteran arts reporter Kim Masters in a *Washington Post* news story.

Radice's ideas about what the public role should be in supporting art are "very strong," said state Sen. Bob Johnson, a Florida Republican who serves on the National Council on the Arts. "Certainly there will be change."

"Sex Change at the NEA" was how the *Washington Times* headlined its story. Both it and the *Post* ignored loud whispers about

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Lesbians and gay men of color gather

Third annual organizing breakfast in Bayard Rustin's name honors choreographer Bill T. Jones, *Essence* editor Linda Villarosa and performance artist Canyon Sam

By Jacob Smith Yang

BOSTON—The spirit of the late, openly gay social activist Bayard Rustin was celebrated April 19th at the third annual Boston breakfast in his name. Approximately 400 lesbian and gay people of color and their allies came together at the South End's Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center at Villa Victoria to enjoy an impressive and inspiring program of music, dance, performance art and speeches over croissants, muffins, orange juice and coffee.

As Zachary T. Knight of the event's steering committee explained, the breakfast honors the life of Bayard Rustin, an African-American leader in the anti-war, civil rights, labor and gay/lesbian movements. Rustin was imprisoned from 1943-1945 as a conscientious objector, served as a special assistant to Martin Luther King, Jr. and was a chief planner of the 1963 March on Washington for Civil Rights.

"Bayard Rustin lived and worked as an openly gay man," said Knight. "It is his struggle and integrity that we celebrate today."

This year's event was hosted by Linda Villarosa, a senior editor at *Essence* magazine who came out to readers in a mother/daughter article about her sexuality. Villarosa recounted the frustration of spending years as a closeted member of the *Essence* staff—how she was "dead silent" during weekly brainstorming sessions that focused on heterosexual relationships, and how co-workers' attempts to "set her up" on straight dates led her to finally come out as a lesbian. Villarosa also talked of the overwhelmingly positive response by *Essence* readers to the article she wrote with her mother and a recent follow-up article.

The theme of this year's breakfast was expressed in its dedication to "those who have died of AIDS, those who are living with AIDS, and those who help support them."

"A friend of mine of ten years asked to sit down with me and discuss coming out, which I found strange because everyone had known he was gay for years," Villarosa told the audience. "Then he explained he was

coming out about AIDS and stressed how important for him to tell the whole world. I was very proud of him." Villarosa characterized the AIDS crisis as "a battleground for recognition because this epidemic disproportionately affects gay men of color."

Following Villarosa's speech was a slide presentation of selections from a Photographic Resource Center exhibit last December, "Fifty Photos: A Phase I Randomized Trial," which featured personal photographs and quotations by local people with AIDS. This was accompanied by Regina Shearer singing "Elijah Rock" to Dennis Slaughter's piano accompaniment.

Canyon Sam, a Chinese-American lesbian writer and performance artist, performed her one-woman piece entitled "The Dissident," which vividly brings to life Sam's spiritual and political odyssey, as she travels from China to Tibet, the site of the on-going oppression, torture and genocide by the Chinese government.

Latina vocalist Mili Bormejo and bassist Dan Greenspan subsequently treated the crowd to a repertoire of songs described as "where jazz meets Latin and soul."

Inspired by the previous performances, choreographer Bill T. Jones, who had planned to show a video tape, instead stripped to the waist and performed an autobiographical dance solo and narrative entitled "Twenty-one."

The Rustin breakfast was sponsored by the AIDS Action Committee (AAC). "This was by far the best turnout the breakfast has ever had," chairperson and AAC African-American Community Resource Developer Harold Dufour-Anderson told *GCN*. "Hopefully, next year we will continue to succeed in our efforts to galvanize the community and foster respect for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of color."

Local jazz vocalist Larry Watson ended the program with his soulful version of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

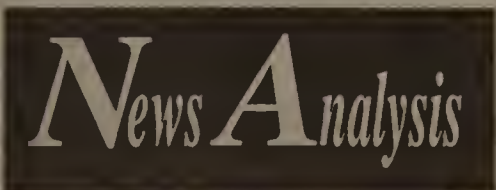
"There is a war going on," Watson said by way of introduction. "A war against the phobias, against the ignorance and against AIDS. We can win this war." □

Liberal academics under fire

The Boston Globe and New York Times take up the cause of a conservative professor charging harassment by "gay radicals"

By Michael Bronski

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The first mention of the lawsuit was a short article in the April 15 *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Mention of the suit appeared, a week later, in *Tech Talk*, the MIT student newspaper. On April 22 the *Boston Globe* ran a news story in their Metro section, and the *New York Times* carried a lengthy article May 5 that broke the story nationwide. It is now only a matter of days before *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New Republic*, and *The National Review* weigh in with their versions of the story. And you can tell right now—from the earlier media coverage—that the news is not going to be good.



'Political harassment' charged

In mid-April Cynthia Griffin Wolff, a tenured professor in MIT's small, but prestigious, Literature Department filed a civil suit against the university alleging that she has been subjected to "a pattern of professional, political and sexual harassment," because she did not agree with the more "radical" views of her colleagues in the department. Wolff claims that she suffered verbal abuse and enforced isolation as part of this harassment and that MIT, by its refusal to intercede in the situation, acquiesced to the harassment.

As part of the suit Wolff claims that she has been systematically prohibited from teaching classes in Women's Studies (an interdisciplinary department which accredits classes from other departments), and that she drew the ire of her colleagues when she had informed the provost that a male junior faculty member was the subject of "unwelcomed sexual attention and harassment" by David Halpern, an openly gay, tenured professor in the department, and that sexual preference was a consideration on hiring committees. Both Ruth Perry, the head of Women's Studies, and Halpern deny the charges.

Wolff's suit claims breach-of-contract,

and she is seeking an unspecified amount in damages from MIT. Although university departmental politics have always been a hotbed of in-fighting, Wolff's lawsuit is unique in several ways. Not only does Wolff's suit claims that the alleged harassment was for a not-very-clearly-defined political ideology but she indicates that her harassment was caused by a prevailing, and powerful, lesbian and gay presence in the department. By all of the evidence in the news-reporting of the suit so far, Wolff's suit has all the earmarks of being the next battleground in the endless "political correctness" fights which have recently been spawned by the right-wing, Bush-endorsed, backlash against progressive forces in education.

Media support 'victim of political correctness'

Reading through the reports of the lawsuit in both the *Globe* and the *Times*, you cannot escape the feeling that they are both laying the groundwork—in the guise of "objective" reporting—of portraying Wolff as another innocent victim of "political correctness." The lead paragraph of the *Globe's* piece concludes with the phrase, "she was harassed because she did not fall in line behind the prevailing radical political ideology of her colleagues." The lack of quotes around "prevailing radical political ideology" indicate that this is the reporter's language, not that of Wolff or her lawsuit.

The article goes on to cite several instances where Wolff was "harshly excoriated" for her political views and quotes a document she wrote to the provost in which she claimed that she "was being unjustly vilified at department meetings, often being screamed at and upbraided by her colleagues." The *Globe* report ends with a quote from Avik Roy, a junior, who says that "a certain group was trying to force its views on the rest of the faculty." Roy is described as a writer for *Counterpoint*, a student publication. No mention is made of the fact that *Counterpoint* is conservative to right wing in its editorial policies, and is partially funded by the Madison Center for Educational

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New York erupts over city councillor's slur

By Jon Nalley

NEW YORK—An April hearing held by New York City Council Health Committee chair Enoch Williams to examine whether Black and Latino agencies are getting a smaller share of money for AIDS services than groups like Gay Men's Health Crisis has led to a furor.

Two members of ACT UP were arrested April 28 when dozens of activists interrupted a council meeting calling for Williams' resignation. And openly-gay, HIV positive councilmember Tom Duane, who represents Greenwich Village, found himself isolated first in the gay community for letting Williams off the hook by suggesting Williams apologize, and then in the city council for being the first of only two councilmembers to call for Williams' resignation. Additionally, disagreement has risen between white gay and lesbian activists and gay and lesbian activists of color.

On April 20, Williams, a veteran Black councilmember from Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, was quoted by the *New York Post* after the hearing as saying, "Many of us in the Black community believe if we condone

homosexuality, AIDS will spread."

Although Williams later alleged his comments were distorted, saying in the *New York Times*, "I fully recognize that gay and lesbian civil rights do not cause AIDS," he stood by his analysis that "most of the resources are going into the gay community." Wide sectors of the gay and lesbian community have called for his resignation as chair of the City Council's Health Committee.

The health committee chair has often clashed with New York city's lesbian and gay community. A vociferous opponent of the council's lesbian and gay rights bill adopted in 1986, Williams has introduced a resolution with Council Speaker Vallone for the last four years that calls for halting a condom distribution plan to prisoners on Riker's Island, calling it a condoning of "illegal and illicit sexual activity." He also opposes condom distribution in schools and clean needle exchange programs.

The debate was furthered by questions of whether or not Mayor David Dinkins should continue plans to appoint Williams—over the objections of the New York City Human

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Can we talk (and not yell)?

Dear *GCN*:

Here's my renewal check. I wanted to write a letter and send it in with the check. But since I wanted to write a cogent, witty, compelling letter, I realized it would be months before you got my check. I know you need the check, so here it is, along with a few blunt, hurried notes.

I appreciate that you try to include everyone who wants to be part of "the lesbian and gay community." I appreciate that it takes a lot of work and money to put out a newspaper as good as *GCN*. I wish I saw more writing—articles or letters—by and about lesbians like me. (My characteristics: lesbian, feminist, in a lifetime partnership with another lesbian, 40 years old, white, second generation European-American, raised Catholic and working-class, college educated, sometimes professional, lived in metropolitan N.Y. most of my life, and I could go on...).

I try to accept what I read in *GCN* as representing other gays or lesbians who are honest, politically aware and feminist, as I am. Yet I don't identify with most of what I see and read. It's almost all "consciousness-raising," about other peoples' issues. That's why it's feeling less and less like *I* should spend time reading it. (This is feedback, *not* a threat.)

I can understand why people don't write. If you publish this, I will certainly be criticized, if not attacked. Who needs it? That's probably why I don't see much in *GCN* that interests me personally. I read the articles and letters about the transsexual at the Michigan Womyn's Festival. I felt attacked just reading the angry, angry letters. (I feel your articles do strive for objectivity, or at least an even tone.) I only remember one letter in support of what was done. But am I really the only other lesbian who wants a safe place to be with other lesbians who are more like me than not like me? (This clumsy wording is a result of having read all those angry letters, and anticipating more anger.) To be *home*, with *my* community? Let me say it: a transsexual is not a woman like me. A transsexual may be part of my larger community (gay/lesbian/bi...). But when do I get to be with "my own kind?" I understand separatism more and more.

Another *big* subject that I feel has been abandoned for the sake of uneasy peace: ethics, or dare I say it, morality. Whoa!! The issue I just got (2/23-3/7) had a letter saying "revulsion is bigotry" (re: NAMBLA). Whatever happened to "the personal is political?" (Is that just a "women's thing?" Or perhaps men's and women's socialization/experiences irrevocably separate us?) Are we to ignore our experiences and reactions *completely*, and just say everything is okay, because we have no right to judge anyone or anything? I am "adult" enough to be revolted by something, examine it politically and personally, and still decide I am against it. I could also re-evaluate my initial reaction and support something, or not oppose it. The examination of our attitudes and actions is important. Saying, "Go ahead, do whatever you want," just doesn't cut it, unless we are indeed amoral, immoral, or totally without ethics.

Well, I've gone and done it now. Let's talk, though, not yell, okay?

Kathe R.
Raleigh, N.C.

Basic Instinct, on second thought

Dear *GCN*:

After all the Queer Nation and media hype before the film was released, all of a sudden no one is talking about it. I have a theory: thoughtful, politically minded people did go see *Basic Instinct* and the big secret is ... they liked it.

The violence in the movie is objectionable if you object to violence in the movies—but frankly it's there to stay and it's about time we see a man getting slashed up by a woman rather than vice versa. The fact is, Terminator, Rambo and Hannibal Lecter are only a few of our contemporary but pathologically violent "heroes," respected for their brutality and thus power. This glamorization of the killer is an American sickness that cries out for critique. However, the terms for receiving respect and power from Americans these days are at least in part—I'd say in large part—dictated by this Hollywood hell. In other words, to be seen as powerful, you play by its rules. *Basic Instinct* takes twists and turns these terms, so it's not just a Hollywood offspring but a bit of a feminist mutant.

As for gay activists' charge that this is *another* lesbian-as-murderess film—what was

the last one? Certainly the gay male psychopath is one of Hollywood's most dependable and deplorable icons, but in this case this charge is just one more example of the straight and gay press subsuming or disappearing lesbians through the use of the term "gay" or the easy collaboration "gay/lesbian" to refer to two groups often with markedly different experiences. Aside from the vampiress in *The Hunger*, I can't think of one lesbian movie murderess, unfortunately. In fact, I can't think of one lesbian (with the exception of the fabulous but sadly nonexplicit *Fried Green Tomatoes*). More to the point, I'm not sure a lesbian as murderer in mainstream movies is the worst thing to happen, especially as Sharon Stone has pulled it off in *Basic Instinct*.

Stone plays a character that Hollywood could only possibly construe as monstrous or at least as murderous; she's a young, unmarried, wealthy, smart, ambitious, successful, gorgeous woman who uses men for physical pleasure, but, as she is emotionally and physically involved with women, *she doesn't need men*. In fact, she uses men in the truly narcissistic fashion of the (male) writer to create and explore what become her own characters in her novels; in this process, she, in some cases literally, drains these men of any reality or being separate from hers, an act traditionally performed by Hollywood's men on its women.

In this film, the men occupy powerless positions as murder victims and alcoholics, and are continuously controlled by Stone's deft use of her multiple tools; for instance, the subject of a police questioning session, she opens her legs at a timely moment and reveals she is wearing no underwear. At this moment and over the course of the film, the cops fall apart physically and emotionally and, consequently, never nail the murderess. And feminists, please, this may be a woman victimized by a sexist culture, but aren't we all? A more useful critique might be one of a woman's ability to negotiate this cultural misogyny and even to find pleasure within or despite it. Stone plays a woman who has used her intelligence and her economic and race-based privileges to operate *within* a sexist culture, perhaps as this film does in the context of Hollywood moviemaking, in a way that maximizes *her* pleasure and power, and perhaps that of the film's female audience as well. This self-obsessed murderess is by no means a feminist ideal, but in Stone's character traces of this ideal are visible, most notably her independence, her emotional and sexual love for women and her self-concern.

I hesitate to call this character a lesbian, as she shows no identification with any sort of lesbian culture. More important though, I completely reject the press' attempt to dilute her power—here based on her total independence from men—by referring to her as a bisexual. There was no ambiguity in the film about the fact that she had an emotional interest in her female lover, Roxy, and not on the ever-hopeful, always—emasculated Michael Douglas. While the film's lesbianism was undoubtedly a sexual hook for heterosexual male viewers, these weren't just het male porno lesbians. Roxy was a tad butch, much to my pleasure, but neither fit into a stereotyped butch or femme physicality/personality.

Assigning the trait of instability to lesbians and gays in our culture is old news. But Stone's character, hardly unstable, does something different with this assignment—something that people should see the film to evaluate. I am thankful for the attention and critical dialogue Queer Nation and other gay activists initiated through their protests at the time of the film's opening. It's now up to all of us to continue that discussion and to use our apparent power in the presses to applaud as well as critique those rare moments when lesbians and gays are presented in interesting, responsible and multiple ways. Finally, if as lesbians, Hollywood is giving us a choice between invisibility or asexual powerlessness, and sexuality/intelligence/self-control and power (albeit demented), I'll definitely take the latter for now and encourage work towards more and varied representations (and, please, better movies).

Hilary Binda
Providence, R.I.

One small action a week

Dear *GCN*:

I just want to let you know that your new news feature, "For the Activist in You," is really wonderful. My political activism has waned somewhat over the past year due to

increased demands on my time, but I find it only takes five or 10 minutes to write a letter or make a phone call to make my voice heard on issues that matter to me. Until I resume a more active political involvement, and even after I do, I'll use the "For the Activist in You" listings every week.

I urge *GCN* readers who feel they don't have the time to be more active, to keep a hand in by doing even one small action a week. What better way to spend 10 minutes than working for lesbian, bisexual and gay liberation?

Sincerely,
Liz Nania
Brookline, Mass.

PAP

Dear *GCN*:

I thought that you might like to have a copy of this letter I sent to the *Boston Globe*:

Dear *Boston Globe*:

Dinesh D'Souza's article in last Sunday's *Globe*, "PC and How it Grew," was yet another tired right-wing polemic. The world-view it espouses has a familiar, conspiratorial ring: aging liberals, guilty by association with the Marxist 1960s, are now coming to power in Academia, determined to crush the free capitalist exchange of ideas by imposing a left-wing orthodoxy on thought. This orthodoxy is characterized by support for politically frivolous causes such as multiculturalism, women's rights and homosexual rights. One of the greatest ironies of the entire PC debate is that the right-wing use of the term "politically correct" is an attempt to silence the liberal opposition: the accusation of political correctness effectively defuses the argument of the accused, reducing it to a frivolous divergence from mainstream (conservative) opinion. But perhaps as the country swings away from decades of conservative orthodoxy, a new acronym will become current to describe the conservative attempt to reestablish the lost golden age of a straight white male dominated society: PAP (politically apple pied).

Yours sincerely,
Owen Shows
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Bigoted signs of our times

Dear *GCN*:

The following was recently written to Mayor David Dinkins of N.Y.C. in response to their St. Patrick's Day Parade and the questions raised about whether gaymen and lesbianwomen should be allowed to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade as a group or as individuals. Since the same questions were raised in Boston, I decided to send this along to your readers as my response to the parade and future events.

I am an Irish Catholic Lesbian!
I am the Daughter of Hibernians!
I am the niece of one called Patricia!
I am the aunt of one called Kelley!
I am the granddaughter of County Cavan!
I am the great-granddaughter of County Cork!
I am the cousin of many fine Irishmen, Irishwomen, and Irish children!

I am Irish,
I am Catholic,
I am lesbian.
Most of all, I am.
And who I am and that I am
Will not be denied.

I welcome the opportunity to march with you
In pride but not in spite,
In hope but not in fear,
In love but not in bigotry,
In a celebration but not a battle.

I welcome the opportunity to march
In the parade of life with you!
But will you march with me?

Although I am saddened that much bigotry and hatred was expressed by some people who taunted the gay marchers, I am pleased that the law, other groups, and individuals supported the rights of the Irish gay and lesbian group to march. This is a positive sign for all peoples. I now hope and pray that future parades will continue as peaceful, joyful celebration for all! My grandparents' pride and self-respect were not stopped nor destroyed by the signs "Irish Need Not Apply" when they first came to these United States. Nor will my pride and self—respect be denied by the bigoted signs of our times!

Let us all march forward in hope and pride!

Marie R. Wit
Marlboro, Mass.

Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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* Indicates member of paid staff collective

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Postmaster: Send address changes to: *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Very important for the community

Dear *GCN*:

I'm happy to inform you and the gay community that I have won my grievance against the Hutchinson Correctional Facility, here at Hutchinson, Kansas for not allowing *GCN* here at this facility. I've been dealing with this issue ever since I walked into the facility on Feb. 7, 1992. The homosexuals at this facility were not allowed *GCN*; it states in the Hutchinson Correctional Facility G.O. 16-103 p. 8 of 13, #10:

Materials, publications or other documents which depict actual sexual penetration, depict, describe, promote or advocate rape, incest, sex acts involving children, child pornography, bestiality, scatology, transsexualism, cross dressing or homosexual acts.

I know within myself these officials were wrong. *GCN* did not fall under those guidelines, so what they were saying about *GCN* was lies as far as I was concerned. The funniest thing about this situation is I don't even subscribe to *GCN*. I'm for gay rights all the way. If the homosexuals just started believing in themselves as people with rights regardless if they are incarcerated or free, and fight for what they believe in, then we can become a strong voice in the world of today.

I am to be released from this facility in less than 80 days. My goal is to work with people on the outside to get help on the inside for the homosexuals that are incarcerated. I feel the Kansas Dept. of Corrections is not ready for the battle they are getting ready to face. True enough, I will be free, but I will not truly be free until I know that a homosexual can come to prison here in Kansas and will be treated like a person.

For the other homosexuals incarcerated in other correction facilities, if you are not allowed *GCN*, most facilities have a Mail Committee Review Board. Request to know why you are not allowed to have this paper. I feel *GCN* is very important for the gay community.

Don't let them tell you anything. Stand up for what you believe in. And most of all, believe in yourself.

Respectfully yours,
Antonio K. Beasley
Hutchinson, Kan.

Letter from Cuba

Dear *GCN*:

We are two lesbians from the Bay area temporarily living in Cuba researching and learning about the lives and history of gay and lesbian people here. Part of our reason for doing this is in response to the lack of such information in our community, the distortion and misinformation in the U.S. about all of Cuban society and in particular concerning gays and lesbians. Most information has focused on the early years following the 1959 revolution. In that early period, gays and lesbians were met with homophobic repression and rejection (much as we experienced in the U.S. by the Left and the Right). Particularly severe instances of repression experienced by some gay men and lesbians in Cuba during that time such as the UMAP Re-education Labor Camps have been highlighted and publicized in our communities in the U.S. especially in recent years. While it is important to remember history, it is also necessary to keep it in perspective and be aware that Cuba, like the rest of the world, has changed over the past 30 years. The UMAP camps have been closed since the late '60s. Although some institutionalized repression continued through till the early 1980s, in the past decade the Cuban revolution has made many important and deliberate changes in its relation to gays and lesbians.

In the early 1970s, the National Commission of Sex Education (CNES), a government-funded program, was formed to research and do widespread outreach on various sex education issues. In recent years, the CNES has made a commitment to countering homophobia and educating people to realize that homosexuality is a healthy option. So far, they have specifically focused on outreach to doctors, mental health professionals and schools. They also encourage the families of gay people to go to family therapy in order to understand, accept and support their gay children. Furthermore, several years ago, the government passed a directive making it illegal to harass anyone on the street for their appearance, clothing or behavior. This was especially important for gays and lesbians, as there were incidents of police harassment in the past.

Currently, there is a discussion group going on at the University of Havana about gay and lesbian issues. As well, the premiere of a play about the friendship between a gay man and a young Communist activist, *La Cathedral del Helado*, by Senal Paz has been selling out for the past month. People, gay and straight, stand in line for several hours to get tickets. We had the opportunity to see the play. It was thrilling to witness the passionate standing ovation the audience gave the performer. The play has received great reviews applauding its confrontation of prejudice against gay people. Many we've spoken to have reiterated how important this play is: the significance of its existence as well as its reception by the public.

When applying for our visas from the Cuban government we were very clear about our desire to research and write about gays and lesbians in Cuba. Not only was our application accepted, but we were given support and encouragement. Our experience so far has been that everyone, from casual encounters on the street to people in mass organizations and government positions, has been eager to help us and are very open to discussing the situation of gays and lesbians. We have found government officials to be very honest about mistakes in the past as well as acknowledging prejudice that occurs today.

Though we are also doing research on the treatment of people with AIDS and HIV, we feel it is too complicated and controversial to go into in a brief letter. However, we do want to point out that while the Cuban government has no limit on spending for medical care and medicine for HIV positive people, due to the U.S. blockade, crucial medicines—such as AZT—are difficult to get. There is also a scarcity of condoms. For example, we attended an AIDS education forum led by an HIV-positive gay man. A video was shown followed by a lively discussion. The scarcity of condoms available in Cuba made it impossible to give them out to the diverse crowd in attendance. Although condoms are available from pharmacists, there are not enough to do the kind of mas-

sive outreach and prevention work the AIDS activists here want to do. There is also a paper shortage throughout the country, again limiting outreach possibilities for fliers, etc. What we see in Cuba is that the needs of working class and poor people, who are the majority, are priority. Health care and education are free and accessible to everyone, and are of a quality recognized throughout the world. People pay no more than 15 percent of their income for rent, and years ago a law was passed giving all those who paid rent for 15 years ownership of their homes. Nationally, childcare is on a sliding scale fee. The Cuban government has instituted policies to combat racism and sexism on economic, political and social levels. While racist and sexist attitudes still exist, it is inspiring to see a government taking these issues seriously. We believe we can learn a lot from Cuba and that these issues must be included in our agenda for gay liberation at home. Although the struggle for gay rights in the U.S. is of huge importance, without serious economic, political and social changes these rights will primarily benefit only the privileged minority (white middle and upper class men and women). Cuba is not a perfect society and does not pretend to be, but it deserves, as well all do, to develop and grow on its own path.

We would like to make a call to the gay and lesbian community to learn the truth about Cuba, to visit if you are able and most of all to put pressure on our government representatives to end the blockade and normalize relations with Cuba. For donations of material aid and to get involved in the campaign to end the blockade against Cuba, contact the following organizations:

Peace for Cuba International Appeal
2489 Mission Street #28
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 821-7575

Center for Cuban Studies
124 West 23rd St.
New York, NY 10011
(212) 242-0559

MADRE
121 W. 237th St.

Rm. 301
New York, NY 10001

In solidarity,
Vikki Dow
Sonja de Vries
San Francisco, Calif.

FYI

• Memorial service for Francis Giambrone (see Obituary, Vol. 19, No. 35-36) Sunday May 17, 3 p.m., Jesuit Urban Center, 775 Harrison Ave. (at E. Concord), Boston. Bring flower or picture for pujah table; will be returned. Info: Jason, (508) 778-5111.

• Help for Abused Women & Children needs volunteers. Training May 19. Info: (508) 744-8552.

Conferences

• "El Primer Encuentro Nacional: Salud, Cultura y Raices. Our survival in the Face of HIV/AIDS," May 21-25, Houston, Texas. Info: LLEGO, National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization, (404) 622-7252 or (408) 728-0782.

• New York City Five-borough organizing conference, "We are everywhere!" May 30, 9 a.m.—6:30 p.m., Herbert Lehman College, Bedford Park Blvd., Bronx. Info: (212) 330-9196.

• Twelfth Annual Louisiana State Lesbian and Gay Conference, "Celebration 92," June 5-7, Marriott Hotel, New Orleans. Info: (504) 586-1006.

—Carrie Wofford, *GCN*

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BLK in crisis

Continued from page 1

New editor is key to BLK's future

Bell's plan for the future of *BLK* is to secure funding to hire an editor, a plan he had been looking into for months. "But now it's real and people are acting on it," he explained. "It's like the riots in L.A. Everyone knew that out in the 'hood things were hopeless, and everybody knew we needed jobs and everybody knew people needed education. Everybody knew these things. But then we had this crisis. What everybody knew, people are now acting on or we hope they're acting on, or at least they're talking about."

Connections, community

The possibility that *BLK* would cease to exist "[would] have serious consequences for the community," Bell said. *BLK* is the only national African American gay and lesbian newsmagazine. "One of the things that makes a movement is the media; people find out what other people are doing," Bell said. After *BLK* reported on the efforts of Black gay organizations to raise money by holding snap contests in Washington, D.C., organizations in other cities picked up the idea. "It was the same thing in terms of outrage," Bell said. Making connections such as that between discrimination against Black gay and lesbian teachers in Seattle, Dallas and Florida helped the outrage and activism multiply. "My idea with *BLK* was simply to spread the information about what was happening in the world," Bell said.

BLK, which has lost less money with each issue, has been financed largely out of Bell's pocket—one result of which is that Bell's house is now in foreclosure. Bell explained the sacrifices he made as a one-man operation: "You make [sacrifices] one by one, and you make them because it seems things are going to turn around and things are almost there, and you've put so much sweat in it."

One of *BLK*'s struggles has been to secure advertising in the face of what Bell calls the institutionalized racism of the advertising industry. The community businesses that advertise in the gay and lesbian bar rags and newspapers run by and for gay and lesbian white people throughout southern California have refused to advertise in *BLK* and other Black gay and lesbian journals. Recently, Bell was able to secure ads from record and movie companies.

BLK's role as the frontrunner in Black gay and lesbian publishing also helped foster the emergence of other Black gay and lesbian magazines. "I think of *BLK* like Spike Lee," Bell said. "We opened some doors, showed some people that it's possible to do this." As many as 20 newsletters and newspapers by and for Black gay and lesbian communities now exist in major cities across the U.S.

BLK Publishing also publishes *Black Lace*, *Blackfire* and *Kuumba*—lesbian, male and poetry periodicals, respectively. The editors of those magazines do not anticipate interruption of their regular publishing schedules. *Black Lace* and *Kuumba* were both started in February, 1991. *Black Lace*, a quarterly publication of erotica by and for Black lesbians, has published three issues, with a fourth ready to be printed. *Kuumba* is printed twice yearly. The first issue of *Blackfire*, a bi-monthly African American gay male erotic magazine, went to press May 5.

—filed from Boston

NEA chief

Continued from page 3

Radice's sexuality and the outing options activists are claiming.

May be outed

Push may come to shove soon as Radice rules on a work containing sexually-explicit pieces recommended for federal funding. The *Times* quoted a senior NEA official who said Radice plans to veto the \$20,000 grant to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Visual Arts Center for "Corporal Politics." It includes "genital wallpaper" with explicit drawings by Robert Gober and a glass sculpture of enlarged sperm by Kiki Smith.

Radice could recluse herself from the decision about the project's funding because of a possible conflict of interest. She worked with its curator when Radice headed the National Museum of Women in the Arts here.

If she does deny the grant, arts activists may rip down Radice's closet door. "Of course we've heard the rumors" about Radice's sexuality, one arts administrator here confirmed. "But I certainly hope that an outing won't be done. I think it's her business. And I think it's great that someone who is reputedly a lesbian is in a position of that kind. Let's leave her in the closet and hope that she'll do some good from that place," she said, adding, "She's not really in the closet anymore anyway." Many in the arts administration world know Radice to be a lesbian.

"Someone's sexual identity," said lesbian performance artist Holly Hughes, "does not guarantee they're on freedom's side. I don't care who she sleeps with." Hughes' NEA grant was rescinded but restored after public outcry. "I care about her politics," Hughes added.

Hughes suggested Radice "has the sensitivity of a Roy Cohn," the closeted ultra-conservative homosexual who died of AIDS. Hughes advocated supporting artists already out instead of outing conservatives.

"Anyway, it's way too late to be concerned about who heads the NEA," Hughes said. "The problem is Pres. Bush. The NEA is due to become the Heritage Foundation," a conservative think tank here. "It's doomed. Whenever Bush is in trouble, he'll throw a few artists to Pat Buchanan or Jesse Helms."

Some urge wait-and-see attitude

"If it hadn't been her, it would have been someone at least as within the mainstream as she is," said Marilyn Zeitlin, director of the Washington Project for the Arts. "She has a reputation as being competent and probably can politic better than someone who is more blatantly radical. My feeling is we've got to give her some space and see what she's going to do. For the arts community to start attacking her before she gets rolling would be a big mistake."

Human Rights Campaign Fund head Tim McFeeley agreed, "She's brand new. We'll just have to see what she does." McFeeley stressed the gay and lesbian community should monitor the NEA closely. □

New York

Continued from page 3

Rights Commission and at the request of Council Speaker Peter Vallone—to the HIV Planning Council, a 45-member mayoral committee that decides how to allocate \$35 million annually in federal funds.

"Placing gay white men against the African American community for the limited attention and funding in the fight against AIDS is a tragedy that only leads to scapegoating and divisiveness," Dennis DeLeon, the openly-gay Latino chair of the Human Rights Commission, said.

Jane Auerbach of ACT UP/NY's Needle Exchange Committee agreed. "He's using the lesbian and gay community as a scapegoat," she said. A participant in the April 28 ACT UP demonstration in the city council chambers, Auerbach said protesters had hoped to pressure council members into opposing Williams' role as health committee chair.

In the same council session, Duane gave an impassioned address in which he reminded the council of the toll that HIV/AIDS and homophobia take daily in New York City. "I have been viciously assaulted three times because people in our city think that it is okay to attack those they perceive to be lesbian or gay.... How dare you kick people when they are in a crisis?! How dare you question my civil rights?!"

After Duane spoke, dozens of activists from ACT UP and the Association of Community Activists for Reform Now (ACORN) threw condoms and chanted, "We die, you do nothing" for 20 minutes until the gallery was cleared.

Activists criticized the council's other openly gay member, Antonio Pagan—who ran without the support of any lesbian or gay organization—for calling only for an advisory commission on AIDS that would educate the council.

Duane questioned

There had been concern in the lesbian and gay community about how Duane had handled the affair in the beginning. An article by lesbian reporter Donna Minkowitz in the *Village Voice* May 5 raised the questions of many in the community by asking if Duane had gone easy on Williams by calling for Williams to apologize. Minkowitz quoted "an aide to an official who's tight with the gay community" that, "On Monday, you could have gotten citywide officials to call for Williams' resignation. But the fact that Tom was so quick to let Williams off the hook blew everyone off course."

Brooklyn AIDS activist Raan Medley—long critical of racism in ACT UP—countered in the next issue of the *Voice*, "That a progressive white would afford a person of color the opportunity to defend himself before launching an attack on him is a virtue that should be encouraged, not dismissed as mere 'political expedience.'"

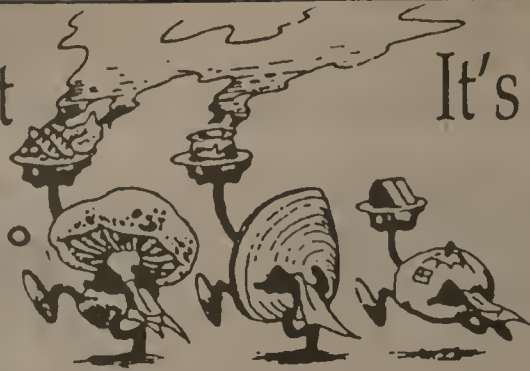
Gay people of color meet

On May 2, an array of community organizations—including Gay Men of African Descent and Black AIDS Mobilization (BAM)—issued a letter calling for Vallone to put someone else from the health committee on the HIV Planning Council. On May 4, after further discussion, the group agreed to call for Williams' resignation as chair of the health committee.

Continued on page 7

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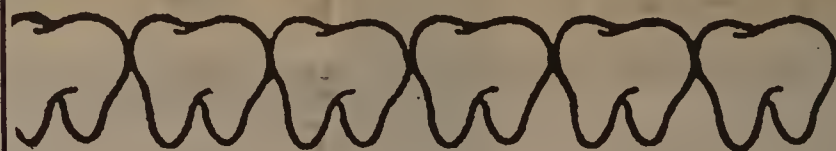
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New York

Continued from page 6

NEW YORK POST



The New York Post April 20

Yet, as Suzanne Shendy of BAM told a WBAI audience the next evening, there was a fear that predominantly white leadership in the lesbian, gay, and AIDS communities would "take our opposition to Williams and run with it, without looking at the larger issues and concerns for our communities."

Williams criticized

Meanwhile, calls for Williams' resignation have come from many quarters, including Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, hospital workers union leader Dennis Rivera, Housing Works, the Anti-Violence Project, *QW* magazine (formerly *NYQ*), Disabled in Action, the Empire State Pride Agenda and the progressive Majority Coalition for a New New York.

In its call for resignation, the Board of Directors of Voices of Color Against AIDS and for Life (VOCAL) called it "appalling and disgraceful that a New York City Council Health Committee chair should be so uninformed." The Board noted that Williams' district has the third highest number of cases of AIDS in the city.

Calling for Williams' resignation, Michael Meyers, the African-American executive director of the New York Civil Rights Coalition, said, "Responsible voices in the Black community who know the truth and who demonstrate maturity in their responses to the AIDS crisis have no respect for and will not trust gay bashing."

Among officials, openly lesbian Assemblymember Deborah Glick, openly gay African American district leader Phil Reed, African American State Senator David Patterson and State Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein have called for Williams to resign.

The *Amsterdam News*, New York's largest African-American newspaper, carried Duane's speech in full with no editorial in support of Williams.

In response to the clamor for his removal, Williams has pledged his "continued commitment to help AIDS victims [sic]" and his willingness to engage in constructive dialogue. The Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the City Council voted to support Williams.

City council politicking

Some activists call the incident representative of city council politicking. Elias Guerrero of ACT UP and VOCAL called Williams a pawn of Vallone. BAM's Shendy agreed, "Vallone is no friend of communities of color or... lesbians and gays. He must be held equally or even more responsible than Williams."

Additionally, rumors abound that Una Clarke—an African-Caribbean city councilmember elected in a tight election with progressive, lesbian and gay support—agreed to keep quiet in return for getting a foster care bill out of the council. Clarke criticized Duane for proceeding without consulting fellow members of the

Academics

Continued from page 3

Affairs—which also funds the *Dartmouth Review*.

Although there are many mentions of long-time problems within the Literature Department—several years ago the university administration took the right to make personnel decisions away from the department—there is never any credence given to the general scholarship or expertise of the department. Wolff however is described as a "leading authority" on Emily Dickinson and Edith Wharton (she, in fact, wrote one book on each), while no mention is made of David Halpern's critically acclaimed *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality* or any of Ruth Perry's noted writings. The ultimate impression here is that the traditional scholar (Wolff) is fighting to uphold critical and academic standards against the upstart radicals (Halpern and Perry) who sport only the barest credentials.

This construction of the "true" scholar against the wide-eyed, destructive, renegades

is the centerpiece of the *Times* article. Written by Fox Butterworth (whose reputation for a conservative bent in his reporting began with his pieces from Viet Nam 30 years ago), the *Times* piece is sub-headed "Literature Professor Asserts Promotions Were Tied to Sexual Preferences." Much of the material is duplicated from the *Globe* piece although it does give more details on the specific assertions and denials of all parties concerned. The one new spin in the *Times* piece is long quotes from Christina Hoff Sommers, a professor of philosophy at Clark University. Described as a "friend" of Cynthia Wolff, Sommers describes Wolff as a "progressive feminist" but one who still believed in applying traditional scholarly standards to academic work."

Later in the article Sommers describes the other professors in MIT's Literature Department as "radical feminists, gay theorists or Marxists, very dogmatic and intolerant... anyone who dares oppose them gets labeled as part of the white, hetero, patriarchal hegemony." It is, in fact, she claims "a case of political correctness gone mad."

Here we have all of the buzz-words that have been used in the "political correctness" wars. It is a battle between open-minded traditionalists and dogmatic radicals, between academic freedom and fascist-like intolerance. Christina Hoff Sommers helps Fox Butterfield, and the *New York Times*, make their point. But what is going on here? The only outside "expert" that Butterfield could find is actually a friend of his story's subject? And is she, otherwise, objective?

Ed Stein, a professor of philosophy at New York University, and author of *Forms of Desire*, told *GCN*, "Sommers is philosophy's version of Phyllis Schlafly. Although she labels herself a feminist, she is noted for taking conservative, perhaps reactionary positions on women's issues." So much for the newspaper of record.

Gay-baiting

The centerpiece of both the *Globe* and the *Times* pieces are the charges that David Halpern sexually harassed a junior faculty member who was worried that his opportunity for tenure might be jeopardized. It is interesting that while the *Globe* and the *Times* play up this angle, the evidence—as stated—is quite different. Wolff charges that she was further ostracized in her department when she reported this sexual harassment to the university administration. The administration did resolve that the junior professor's tenure consideration took place in a "context of malice and destructive behavior"—but there is no mention of sexual harassment. There seems to be little doubt (on the part of the administration) that the promotion process was deeply troubled, but the only public charges of sexual harassment made against Halpern were by Wolff *on behalf of* another person who has never come forward with them himself.

It is not accidental that gay male sexual harassment charges would feature prominently in Wolff's lawsuit as well as in the attendant news reporting: they create the visceral, queer-baiting angle that gives her charges an emotional punch, the lurid details that elevate an interdepartmental squabble to exploitable news.

It is no secret that there has been a right-wing backlash against the more progressive forces in the Academy. Cynthia Griffin Wolff's lawsuit is not an isolated incident in one university but must be understood in the context of the ongoing war against multiculturalism, feminist and lesbian/gay studies, and many other changes that are happening in U.S. colleges and universities. George Bush's denouncement of political correctness as the new McCarthyism, Pat Buchanan's recent attack on Duke University, the myriad of articles in *Time* and *Newsweek* on how "politically correct" professors and students are ruining the academy, and the near-hysteria which surround the Columbus celebrations all help set the stage for how the media think and write about Cynthia Griffin Wolff's suit. It is not surprising then that in the *Globe* and the *Times* she is being portrayed as an isolated heroine upholding traditional standards and saving junior faculty from the perverted clutches of radical homosexuals.

It would be comfortable, but unwise, to view Wolff's suit as a singular occurrence. Not only will Wolff, and her suit, gain favorable coverage in the national press, but because she is actually using existing harassment-law language—the creation of a hostile work environment is a key element in sexual harassment cases—her case, if won, stands to set a dangerous precedent. Such a precedent would leave feminist, lesbian/gay, progressive, leftist, or radical academics to be intimidated or silenced and the universities which employ them to be legally prosecuted.

Next issue: What are the chances of Cynthia Griffin Wolff's lawsuit being taken seriously in court, and what would this mean for progressives in the Academy? □

Academy award

winning lesbian speaks

Ex-Bostonian, lesbian and tireless activist Debra Chasnoff can now add an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary to her list of accomplishments. Her film, *Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons, and Our Environment* is part of the growing movement to hold corporations socially accountable for the health and environmental consequences of their work. Millions of viewers saw and heard Chasnoff on national television during the Awards broadcast, when she came out as a lesbian—publicly thanking her “life partner,” Kim Klausner, and their son Noah—and urging

viewers to boycott General Electric.

INFACT's boycott of General Electric is the subject of Chasnoff's award-winning film, which took a little more than six months and a mere \$65,000 to make. INFACT is the same Boston-based organization that spearheaded a successful boycott of Nestle in the 1970s and '80s, designed to expose that corporation's irresponsible marketing of infant formula in the Third World.

Chasnoff is familiar to many in the Boston gay and lesbian community. During her years here, she worked at *Dollars and Sense*, a leftist journal of popular economics; 9 to 5, the National Organization of Working Women; and produced a weekly public affairs radio program, “*Undercurrents*,” on WBUR.

She became well known in the national lesbian and gay community when she and her lover, Kim Klausner, made *Choosing Children*, one of the earliest efforts to document the lesbian “baby boom.” The film was shown at benefits for women's and gay organizations around the country and undoubtedly helped to move family issues higher up on the agenda of gay activism.

Chasnoff and Klausner moved to San Francisco in 1985. They were exhausted by their filmmaking experience, but pursued various other types of political work. Chasnoff worked as press secretary for Roberta Achtenberg, a progressive lesbian attorney and director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights who ran for the California State Assembly. And both Chasnoff and Klausner were founders of the national gay and lesbian quarterly, *Out/Look*.

I spoke with Chasnoff when she was in Boston for the opening of *Deadly Deception* at the Coolidge Corner Theater.

GCN: How did you get involved in the GE boycott?

Debra Chasnoff: Part of the story about INFACT and me is that I became involved in INFACT's first campaign to change the unethical marketing of infant formula. Organizing Wellesley [College] to boycott Nestle was one of my first political organizing activities. It was a very empowering experience and very pivotal for me. It helped to form my politics.

I was very outraged at the way women were treated in our society and also at the way corporations operated with blatant disregard for human life. At the time, it was also a First World/Third World domination issue that really upset me. All those things came together in the Nestle boycott. I felt very angry and powerless about a lot of things and it was really exciting to find an organization that insisted people didn't have to be powerless, that behaved as if people could take on these big corporations. That really opened my eyes. It was one of the first experiences I had that taught me that if people work together, you can really make a difference, even against these enemies that seem so huge and unmovable.

Tell me what your years in Boston were like.

I waitressed at Ken's Deli in Copley Square after graduating from college. Then I got a job in an economics consulting firm downtown. I was an economics major, so that was the job and the career I was supposed to have had. Our clients were these big telecommunications firms, some of the biggest in the country.

At night, I had begun to get involved in the Clamshell Alliance, organizing against the Seabrook [New Hampshire] reactor, and was

really drawn to public speaking about nuclear power. I found that the same corporations I was working for during the day were the ones that I was organizing against at night. The contradiction got to be too much for me. I left that job and I've never had a “straight” job since.

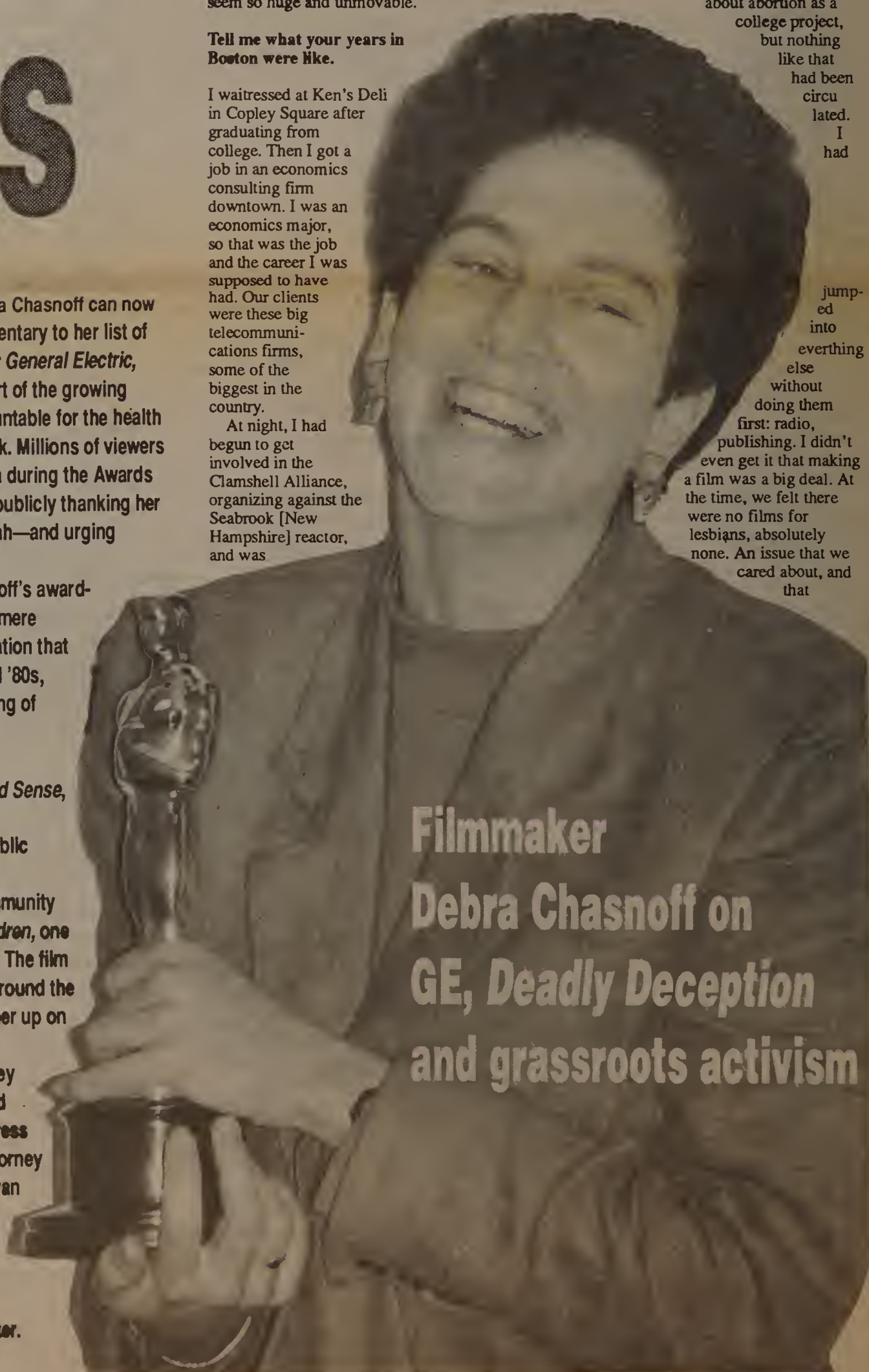
Since then I've been struggling. How does someone with a conscience, with a certain set of values, make your way in the world and chose what kind of work to do? It's been a big struggle for me to find a way to be effective and also to make a living. I got a job at *Dollars and Sense*, where I was able to do critical economic analysis for lay people and develop my skills as a journalist.

How did you and Kim decide to make *Choosing Children*?

It was Kim who said she really wanted to make a film—something political and relevant to people's lives. She was involved at the time in Angry Arts [a collective that screened hard-to-find independent, political films] and very interested in political film. I was young and naive enough to say: “Okay.”

She had made a short film about abortion as a college project, but nothing like that had been circulated. I had

jumped into everything else without doing them first: radio, publishing. I didn't even get it that making a film was a big deal. At the time, we felt there were no films for lesbians, absolutely none. An issue that we cared about, and that



Filmmaker
Debra Chasnoff on
GE, *Deadly Deception*
and grassroots activism

everyone was talking about in 1983 was: Could lesbians have kids? It electrified conversations, everyone had intense feelings about it. We thought it would make a very interesting film.

We wanted to do a project together, but neither one of us knew a thing about it. Margaret Lazarus of Cambridge Documentary Films really took us under her wing. She went step by step and told us, “First you need to hire a cinematographer, then....” We would sketch out our ideas for the film with her. She eventually taught us how to edit and donated her editing facility. She made it painless and advised us through all the steps.

The biggest challenge with that film, and with most films, was the fundraising. Each of us had skills in community organizing that translated well. We raised the money in a grassroots fashion all over the country—my first experience with direct mail! We had written people all over the country trying to find women to be in the film. We also did fundraising events. And that’s where a lot of the money came from. We made the whole film with \$40,000. We didn’t pay ourselves at all. We did it on weekends and at night. We went on a national tour with *Choosing Children* when it was done, doing benefits for either women’s organizations or gay groups and we got a lot of media. And we burned out.

What did you do after moving to the West Coast?

Well, it was like, “Time to get a real job.” We hadn’t been making a living. It was clear to us both that there was no way to make a living making documentaries. Making *Choosing Children* was political work to us—it had taken three years.

We both got new jobs in San Francisco. I worked as publisher and general manager for the *Daily Cal*, a daily paper in Berkeley. I was immersed in that for about a year. Because of *Choosing Children*, another filmmaker approached me to be the associate producer on her film, *Acting Our Age*, a film about older women’s lives. That helped me stick my toe back into filmmaking and I liked it a lot. As associate producer, I did a lot of fundraising again, but I also began meeting a lot of people in the filmmaking community in the Bay Area.

I enrolled in film school at S.F. State for one semester—lots of French film theory. Then I dropped out because Roberta Achtenberg ran for the California State Assembly and she said, “Why do you want to go to school? Come be my press secretary.” It was much more compelling to me to get back into the fray. I quit and jumped into her campaign for three months.

We were starting *Out/Look* at the same time. I’ve always had several layers of things going at once. The campaign ended, Noah was born, and I began working at *Out/Look* for a year and a half.

What got you working on *Deadly Deception*?

Folks from INFACT contacted Women’s Educational Media, Inc. [Chasnoff’s organizational alias] in the summer of 1990. They had seen *Choosing Children*. They wanted a tool to increase the effectiveness of their campaign to stop the corporate production and promotion of nuclear weapons. One of the ways they had identified to do that was to go after GE’s image as the company “that brings good things to life.” They also wanted to focus on the health and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons in the world. That was the entire idea. That’s what they wanted.

I started work in September of 1990 and finished in June 1991, a very short timeframe. The contrast between GE’s commercials and the reality of what they are doing to the environment and people’s lives became the operating device for the film.

Making the film was very different than making *Choosing Children*. We deliberately constructed *Choosing Children* without a narrator because we didn’t want a disembodied voice speaking for people. We wanted lesbians to speak for themselves. *Deadly Deception* has a narrator because there was so much information to cram into it. So many facts had to be conveyed. That was the most challenging thing: how to get it all across and have an emotional impact without boring people to death? So I opted for quick cuts and lots of ads as a solution.

Another big difference, working with an organization, is that I didn’t have to raise the money, and that’s half the problem. It’s an enormous difference. I wasn’t worrying

about it; they were. The whole thing cost \$65,000.

There was a lot of going back and forth, meshing my artistic vision with INFACT’s needs. I think we did a good job and we had amazingly few conflicts. They were not in the editing room at all. I showed them a rough cut and a fine cut. But they circulated it throughout the whole organization and offered pages and pages of feedback. Fortunately, as a political activist, I was familiar with these kinds of organizations and “process.” I’d been involved in so many of them, including INFACT itself in college! I appreciated their desire to have all kinds of people involved.

What makes me different from other filmmakers is that I come out of a movement, and the experience of political organizing. I understand the world of non-profit organizations. While the process can at times be cumbersome, I respect it.

INFACT managed to distribute 4500 copies of *Deadly Deception* before the nomination, which is considered phenomenal for an organization like that. But it also got picked up for theatrical distribution by Tara Releasing. The guy who runs Tara had heard about it because it won first prize at the Earth Peace International Film Festival in Vermont last summer. Since January, *Deadly Deception* has been playing at movie theaters all around the country, in 50 cities.

Tell me about the nomination process.

It was when Tara picked it up that we transferred it to film, which is one of the requirements for Academy Award nominations. You also have to win the top prize at qualifying film festivals even to be considered. *Deadly Deception* won a Gold Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival and a Golden Eagle at CINE, a national festival that picks films to represent the U.S. overseas.

Awards were not INFACT’s focus, but I thought *Deadly Deception* had a life beyond community organizing. So I worked on publicizing it about a day a week for free. I sent away for the Academy Award rules and regulations. I read them about ten times. I never thought it would be eligible, but it was. I couldn’t believe it. So I submitted it at the very last moment. It was on the day of the deadline last October. We got our very first print on that very day, and they sent it by courier over to the Academy. I thought: “What a long shot,” and forgot about it until February, when I got a call at 6:00 a.m. that *Deadly Deception* had been nominated. We were ecstatic. I got flowers. People started calling. It was very exciting.

What did you think about the planned Oscar ceremony protests by ACT UP and Queer Nation?

I was, of course, very aware of the controversy over *Basic Instinct*. San Francisco is where all the protests started and I’m on the film commission there. But nobody ever called me about the protests, which really surprised me. I kept waiting for the phone call. I didn’t know what I would do, but I was certainly waiting for the call. There was even a full-page article about me in *The Advocate* that came out a week before the Awards. I thought my phone was going to ring off the hook, but I didn’t get a single call. Maybe it’s just another case of lesbian invisibility.

What was it like at the Awards ceremony?

Well! What was I going to wear? What was I going to say? What would I say if I won? It caused a lot of anxiety.

You only get 45 seconds and they threaten to cut you off if you go on longer. I felt like I had to talk about the GE boycott and INFACT. It was such a fantastic opportunity for them. Also, I wanted to thank the person who has been most important to me, my partner, Kim Klausner. I knew those would both be political acts: endorsing the boycott and coming out, quite a lot for 45 seconds. I also really wanted to acknowledge Noah. They were two very important messages to me, and very personal. And I pulled it off.

What has life been like since you won?

It has been a total whirlwind. I’ve been unprepared. I got 40 messages at work and 40 messages at home when I got back. All kinds of media attention, both because of the GE boycott statement and because of coming out—not to mention simply the attention you get for winning.

It’s actually been very positive. I think

winning is a transcendent thing that everybody in America can relate to. People can be proud of you. It’s been so meaningful to me that lots of people have said, “Your statement is causing me to reconsider what I’m doing politically.” I think it’s just a shock for people to see a real person say something with real content at an event like that. People think it’s very courageous and brave.

Have representatives of the straight media asked you about coming out?

About half of them have asked me about coming out at the awards. It’s been very positive—not one negative reaction. People have said: “That was very moving the way you did that.” I really think that everybody can relate to it somehow, everybody has a fantasy of who he or she would thank in that situation, and people understand the desire to thank my lover. They think, “Of course I would want to do that, too.” It doesn’t seem weird to anybody. I like that. It helps people get it, that our relationships are as meaningful, as important. It’s a bridge to people and I like operating that way.

In spite of the Barbra Streisand controversy [because she was nominated Best Director for *Prince of Tides*], no one in the media has asked me about being a woman director—it’s all been about being a lesbian and a voice for INFACT. But at events, I’ve been just mobbed by women who are trying to make it in Hollywood and documentary filmmaking. There have been so few models.

What are your future plans?

I have three different film projects in the works. One is about homophobia for elementary school-age children. It’s a result of my experience with my own son. I’d like to help instill positive associations with gay people in young children.

I’ve been working with the teachers at Noah’s preschool. We’ve been talking about how to introduce positive ideas about different kinds of families because I very much want him to be in an environment where he’s not considered a weirdo. For example, we had kids bring in pictures of their families. Half arrived with pictures of mommies and daddies—half had other kinds of family structures. Noah and one other kid in the school brought in pictures of two mommies. The amazing and positive thing is that at age three, all the kids got it. It’s very exciting. They don’t even blink. They just know that’s the way things are.

These kids are lucky to get the message that there are lots of different ways to live together and to love. I’d like to bring that message to more children. Also, I’ve been motivated by the depressing homophobic climate and all the hate violence in San Francisco. Reaching young people seems very important to me. I know it will be controversial. You’re not supposed to talk about homosexuality with kids because then you’re accused of encouraging them to be gay. But I’ve seen barriers against discussing racial diversity come down. I’m hoping I can do something like that.

I’m also interested in doing something about the campaign for a national health care system. I’m hoping to work with another organization that’s doing work on this issue, like I did with INFACT. Finally, I have another very rough idea for a film—a true story of gay and lesbian struggle that I find very inspiring.

Do you think the Academy Award will change your life?

I’ve already had a couple of offers for things like public service announcements. Mainly, I hope the award will mean that my phone calls will be returned more quickly in the future. And I certainly hope it will make fundraising easier.

Is there anything you’d like to say specifically to people in Boston?

Being back definitely feels like coming home. The feminist, lesbian and gay and broader left/activist communities here are my home base. My politics were shaped here and my organizing skills were crafted here. I’m reminded again about how strong the influence was on me. Despite the Reagan/Bush years, people here have maintained their vision of a better world, one we would rather live in. My heroes are people who live here and who do the kind of activist work I believe in. □

BOYCOTT GENERAL ELECTRIC

INFACT is an international grassroots organization of concerned people organizing campaigns to stop the life-threatening abuses of trans-national corporations. INFACT is engaged in a Nuclear Weaponmakers Campaign focusing on General Electric, the leader of the nuclear weapons movement. Over 450 groups have endorsed the boycott and GE has lost over \$28 million in medical equipment sales in a one-year period due to physicians' and religious communities' support. If you would like to support the campaign,

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You can contact INFACT for further information on the GE boycott or to order *Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment* on videocassette. Enclose a check or money order for \$18 (includes postage) and send to INFACT Nuclear Weaponmakers Campaign, 256 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113. The video can also be ordered by phone at (617) 742-4583.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY ELLEN HERMAN

What better way to say goodbye?

Making the personal political, the public private and vice versa

By Randy Wicker

How I ended up with Mark's ashes and the responsibility of disposing of them still baffles me. A couple of years ago, during his first hospitalization, Mark's bar buddies deserted him. Only I, a casual friend of many years, came.

Later, when he begged me as his only "reliable and responsible" friend to be his executor and hold his living will, I couldn't refuse. Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) had provided him with a neat little packet of legal papers. I signed them and tucked a copy in my files, optimistically believing "a cure" would make everything unnecessary.

Kvetching about GMHC seems fashionable these days. I could bend your ear with a few complaints all my own. But when Mark sent me to retrieve his money from the bank with one of that bank's specific power-of-attorney cards he'd signed and had notarized by a *nun* at St. Vincent's Hospital, the first official refused to accept it, saying "the signature is scrawled and irregular."

I demanded to see the branch manager and explained the situation while pulling Mark's "living will" and other papers from the GMHC envelope. One of the other papers, a "General Power of Attorney," was acceptable. Because it had been prepared months earlier, the signature matched the one on the bank's records. Ye, with steady hand, take note and be prepared!

Mark was so thrilled on June 3, when I succeeded in emptying his account and sending \$700 to his widowed, impoverished mother to whom he owed so much. He died 12 hours later.

Rudden's Funeral Home sent me with the appropriate papers to an office in Brooklyn so Mark, who died "without assets," could apply to have his cremation/burial expenses paid for by the city. (Nine hundred dollars is the maximum benefit.)

Mark had wanted his ashes thrown into the Hudson River at the foot of Christopher Street. His mother understood. They had discussed it earlier.

"Thank you for caring," she said. "I don't want any ashes. What would I do with them? I prefer to remember Mark as the vibrant, healthy young man he was before he got sick. *That was my son.*"

A friend lost. Now, just a box of ashes, a few personal effects, an empty wallet, assorted cards, not much left. Damien, named after me in all those legal papers, turned out to have been Mark's lover many years ago. He was the only one I called who seemed genuinely grieved.

"Of course," he volunteered, "I'll scatter Mark's ashes with you."

Some afternoon, I suggested, we'd walk down there with anyone who wants to join us and just toss the contents of the box into the river. Depressing? Uninspiring? *Really!!!* But what else could we do?

Then Jacques Garon, the larger-than-life director of 1991's Sixth Annual Candlelight AIDS Vigil, held the Friday before New York City's Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, popped into my lampshop on Hudson Street, just off Christopher, asking if we'd display a poster.

"I have these ashes," I mentioned, putting up two posters, one in each window. "Could we carry them and throw them into the river as part of the larger ceremony?"

"Why not?" Jacques responded rhetorically, at first seeming momentarily perplexed, then obviously concluding in his own mind that carrying ashes in the AIDS Candlelight march wouldn't be inappropriate. "But, I have to check it out. Maybe, we could even put the ashes on the stage, put his name in the program."

"Gee!" I enthused, overwhelmed by his generous response. "Michael Hurlburt, one of my closest friends, died last December. He wanted his ashes thrown into the river, too. Could I invite his lover Kenny to join us with Michael's ashes?"

"I don't see why not," Jacques replied, handing me his card. "Have him call me. But I do have to check all this out first."

Politics got fast and furious the next few days. Hearing that we were planning on carrying Mark's and Michael's ashes in the procession, some of those involved objected.

"I'm getting a lot of heat on this," Jacques confided a couple of days later. "But I'm not backing down. You won't be shut out!"

Ultimately, head honcho Red Mahoney called to say the vigil committee "couldn't be responsible for anyone's ashes."

"Of course not," I agreed, "but certainly we can carry them ourselves, as individuals who are also participating in the ceremony."

"Of course you can," Mahoney conceded.

"But is it legal?" Kenny, Michael's lover, fretted. "Couldn't the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) arrest us for dumping human remains in the river?"

"Just let 'em try," I reassured him. "Both Michael and Mark wanted their ashes thrown into that river. It's *our* and *their* right! If some EPA jerks were so stupid as to try to even interfere, I'd gladly submit to arrest. Just let them try!"

Despite my bravado, Kenny's worries were mesmerizing. I didn't know the law. It was probably illegal to even spit in the river. Huge *N.Y. Post* headlines flashed through my mind: "FUNERAL RAIDED! Ash Throwers Seized!" "BURIAL AT RIVER STOPPED BY FEDS! 'Remains' Remain on Land!"

"For the first time, St. Veronica's Roman Catholic Church has invited us to hold the ceremony inside," Jacques announced a couple of days later, obviously very elated. "This is a real breakthrough!"

"I've reserved seats in the front for you. I'm going to read Mark's and Michael's names first, when we do the roll call."

I'd just gotten a Sony V801 Hi-Band Video Camera. While Damien and Kenny decorated their special boxes on large silver trays with orchids and flowers, I commenced filming.

During the the next couple of hours, my atheist secular hands, blessed by the technology of Sony, created an electronic miracle. Memorials, contrary to popular belief, are really for those still living, *not* for the dead. Suppressing my own disbelief in the religiosity of it all—but nevertheless experiencing an intense emotional catharsis—I captured this especially beautiful ritual of communal mourning.

This would be my special gift to two mothers, one in Florida, the other in Texas. Through this videotape, they could join New York's gay and lesbian community's memorial service for their sons and so many others. It is a community vaguely familiar to them, thousands of miles away, experiencing an extraordinary hour of sharing, caring and comradeship. While saying "goodbye," they would certainly catch a glimpse of another world.

And now to the videotape:

Motorcycles roared. The band stuck to the repetitious cadence of the death march. Hundreds passed quietly, many carrying Quilt panels they and others had created.

Even in this procession—respectfully, discreetly—small signs of affection flickered. Two lesbians, walking side by side, only their little fingers interlocked. Male couples, here and there, physically supported each other.

Down Christopher Street. Bellardo's Art Studio festooned with collages of photos from earlier processions. In other shop windows, small candles flickered, sometimes by the photo of a lost employee/lover/friend.

At St. Veronica's, the doors certainly were open. With an energy Elmer Gantry would have admired, the throng surged into the chapel as the Lavender Light Gospel Choir literally rocked the rafters with awe-inspiring spirituals. Quilt panels were draped everywhere: over the communion railing, even from the balconies.

The service was carefully ecumenical. Members of the Gay Synagogue recited the Jewish prayer for the dead. A leatherman offered the Lord's Prayer. Borough President Ruth Messinger declared, "We honor those who have died *the most* when we fight like hell for those still living."

Finally, Jacques Garon read his roll call. Mark and Michael were the first two names called, as promised. After finishing his own short list, he asked all those present to call out the names of loved ones they'd lost. For several minutes, one by one, voices sprung forth from every corner of the hall.

Fr. Ken Smith, the local parish priest who'd welcomed the community in, gave the invocation, then lit the first candle from the altar's central flickering flame. And as a quartet played Pachelbel's *Canon in D Major*, that flame—that flickering testimonial of light to life—spread, one to one, until the light glowed bright enough that we were assured it could be seen by "those in Heaven above."

Throughout the service, hundreds of balloons, most with individual names written on them, dangled overhead, awaiting their ultimate release outside. There, they would sail skyward into the twilight, crisscrossing until each lost its own identity, becoming one of many dots escaping into the sky. Just call it letting go.

Linda David's rendition of "Goodbye My

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Continued on page 11

COMMUNITY GUIDE

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Goodbye

Continued from page 10



Friend" demolished every dry eye in the house. She's an artist of our times. Once a professional cabaret singer, these days, she only sings at memorials. Actually, that evening she was saying goodbye to one of her closest friends, her manager for over 20 years, whom she had recently lost. In person, Linda David is a small, shy Caucasian woman. In song that evening, she was truly all feeling and soul, a modern day Mahalia Jackson!!

The service nearly over, outside the band joyously struck a more upbeat tune—"We Are What We Are"—and everyone marched toward the river.

Jacques Garon and Red Mahoney led the way, each carrying a large wreath, Damien and Kenny followed immediately behind. After tossing the wreath onto the water, Jacques stopped, spread his arms to hold back others moving toward the river.

Kenny and then Damien emptied their ashes into the water below. They tossed in their orchids and other flowers almost simultaneously.

"Thank God, it's finally over!" Kenny confided later. "I've had Michael's ashes for months. I'd put it off from week to week. It was a real loadstone around my neck. Tonight was so beautiful. It was so perfect. Now I feel like I can get on with my life."

Incredible, I thought, watching my videotape. By incorporating ourselves into the Candlelight March, we'd given Mark and Michael a send-off like they could have scarcely imagined.

Our only expense? A few dollars for flowers. I'd attended a private memorial service and burial of ashes which had cost \$8000—with barely 15 attendees—which couldn't begin to compare.

"You know this year only two of us carried ashes," I mentioned while handing Jacques a copy of the service. "Do you know how fantastically rewarding it was to be able to do that?"

"I hope a cure is found and next year, services like this will be history," I continued. "I've decided to publicize this. I know all kinds of people are sitting around with ashes, not knowing really just what to do, not having the money for a big service, not having the time and energy to organize one."

"Next year, I wouldn't be surprised if there were 20, even 200 people carrying ashes! By doing that, you would really render an enormous service to our community."

"Well," Jacques replied a bit alarmed, "we don't want to turn this into a mass funeral. We memorialize those who've died and celebrate those still living."

Sorry Jacques, I reflected quietly, holding my tongue diplomatically. This is too important, an idea whose time has come. Collective grief comforts, lets us know we're not alone, that others share our pain and loss. People carrying ashes at the Annual Candlelight March simply gives everything more poignancy, more meaning.

What finer tribute can anyone give a friend, each of whom almost invariably dies a pauper, than to carry him or her to the river with bands and banners, with flowers and song, with a community showing its grief?

Yes, take each one of them to the river as if they were a Pharaoh or a Princess. What better way to say "goodbye" with eloquence, dignity and love? □

The 7th Annual AIDS Candlelight March/Vigil will be held on Fri., June 26, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. The march is from Sheridan Square down Christopher Street. The event will also feature the dedication of an AIDS Memorial in Greenwich Village. For further information call the Christopher Street Festival at (718) 565-6789.

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Newsnotes

Continued from page 2

Task Force, (202) 332-6483 or Union Temple Baptist Church, (202) 678-8822; Los Angeles: AFSC, (818) 791-1978; New York: Abyssinian Baptist Church, (212) 862-7474; Minneapolis: Friends for a Nonviolent World, (612) 870-1501; Philadelphia: AFSC, (215) 241-7000; San Francisco: Outrage! John, (415) 821-6108 or Allen, (415) 978-0433.

• Urge the U.S. Justice Dept. to release political prisoner Silvia Baraldini to Italy, her country of citizenship. Baraldini has been held since 1982, serving 43 years for conspiracy (which usually gets 12 years maximum) for her work to free Black Panther leader Assata Shakur from prison. On Feb. 9, Italian deputy prime minister and Italian Parliament renewed requests for Silvia's transfer to Italy. Repatriation is called for by the Strasbourg Convention, an international treaty signed by the U.S. and Italy. Send a mailgram (800) 888-5284. Write: J. Michael Quinlan, Dir. of Bureau of Prisons, Justice Dept., 320 First St., NW, Washington DC 20534.

Info/to send contributions: John Brown Educ. Fund, 3543 18th St. Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110.

• "Save our Cities" march on Washington May 16, 10 a.m. Info: (617) 635-3485 or 3309.

Boston caravan and rally 10 a.m. Roxbury Community College parking lot, 1234 Columbus Ave. Info: Jobs with Peace, (617) 451-3389.

• Meet with or contact your congressional representatives May 18 for National AIDS Lobby Day. Info: Mobilization Against AIDS, (415) 863-4676.

• ACT UP march/demonstration May 25, Kennebunkport. Info: (207) 828-0566.

• First New Jersey gay pride parade, June 6 at the Boardwalk in Asbury Park. Info: Karen, (908) 469-8285 or John (908) 561-4459.

New England

• Somerville Women's March Against Violence, May 12. Gather 6 p.m. at Somerville High School Gym Concourse, 81 Highland Ave.; vigil 8 p.m. Davis Sq. Info: Rose Boardman, (617) 625-6600 x2400.

• Demand fair treatment for people with disabilities: May 15, 11 a.m., Worcester City Hall. Protest Mass.'s hiring of Health Pro, a Worcester-based company that reviews disability applications and denies over 50 percent. Bus from Boston leaves 9:30 a.m. from 39 Boylston St. Also call Gov. Weld to protest: (617) 727-3600. Info: (617) 482-6119.

• Work-a-thon, May 30 at low-income cooperative housing projects. Sponsorship money benefits City Life and Building for a Brighter Future for Nicaragua. Info: (617) 492-8699.

• New newspaper written by, for and about homeless people, *Spare Change*, in Boston. To volunteer, contact Jobs for Peace (617) 338-5783.

Got activist news? Call, write or fax: (617) 426-2723. —Carrie Wofford

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WOULD-BE GM PORN STARS

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Rhode Island Dyke - leftish, moonwatching Baby Boomer, adrift in a sea of personals - Throw me a line I can swallow! P.O. Box 40203, Providence, RI 02904 (44)

QUEER ACTING, QUEER LOOKING

Radical, politically-active, out, feminist, Jewish, bi-dyke bottom. Seeking women to speak to my body and stimulate my mind. Long walks on the beach not necessary. *GCN* Box KP3 (44)

KINKY ORAL STUFF

WM 27 will put my tongue anywhere! Especially armpits, feet, other sweaty parts. Prefer smooth-chested 18-26. Suite 424, 304 Newbury St. Boston, MA 02115 (42)

GWF SEEKS MATE

GWF, 38, Professionally employed seeks the right woman. Likes music, movies, is romantic. Wants a monogamous relationship. I'm ready. Let's see if it works. *GCN* Box F38 (44)

BOYFRIENDS WANTED

Handsome funny affectionate GWM, 30s seeks easy-going, friendly, sober boyfriend 20s. Me: active, productive, successful, integrity, spiritual principles. You: leftist, intellectual, capable student/artist. (49)

SHARE PARENTING

Living on the outer Cape, I, a gay male, would like to have a child and possibly share the parenting of that child with a lesbian. Write and we can explore the possibilities. P.O. Box 918, Provincetown, MA 02657 (48)

Vermont Bear, tall, beard. Sane but kinky, short hair, very hairy, cut offs, work boots, home video exchange. Day, Box 3086, Burlington, VT. 05401 (46)

FOR SEX ONLY

GWF, professional, mid-thirties has spring fever. I have a lover, just want to have more sex. Any women interested in wild nights or afternoon delight? Race, age unimportant. Serious replies only. L22 (46)

Liza, Are you done yet? (I thought it was time to ask again.)

DATES OR SEX

What about dates *for* sex? Is your calendar *too* full of things that are *too* serious. Mine is. Let me pencil you in for something fun. Slightly stressed-out LF, late twenties, seeks women for occasional diversions. Age, race unimportant. *GCN* Box 676 (46)

Attractive, trim, easy-going, healthy HIV+ GWM into erotic massage and more. Lay back, enjoy! Also alternative therapies, audio, travel. (404) 876-9529, P.O. Box 53142, Atlanta, GA. 30355. (46)

Are you too sexy for these ads?

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\$10 buys you 10 weeks to see if anyone else thinks so. For a limited time, your personal can appear five times (ten weeks) for only \$10. See form on this page for details.

YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS

At least that's what I'm hoping. GBM bottom seeks exceptionally endowed top. Also FF. Box PS3 (42)

DO YOU BITE

GWM 24, 5'10", 150 lbs. attractive with smooth boy body wants to bite other smooth boy bodies. Safe, discreet. Pix encouraged, but not necessary for reply. *GCN* Box B12 (40)

Radio/Cable TV for and about us. Send \$2 (applied to order) for catalog to Box 11212, Washington, DC 20008 (48)

GWM, 30, sexy, blonde, slim, cute buns seeks well-hung studs for fun times. Love to deep-throat. P.O. Box 656, Cambridge, MA 02140.

CHILD CARE

Lesbian couple seeking live-in child care help for infant girl in Cambridge. Experience with children, non-smoker, drivers' license required. Call 354-5447

Lesbian moms need child care for two infants, Sept-June, 8:30-5:00, Cambridge. Call 868-4251 or 492-1091, leave message. (40)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FISHER PRICE PIXEL CAMERAS

Do you have one? Has the novelty worn off? I hope so because I really need one. Write to *GCN* Box Pix, name your price. (38)

Key youth issues for gay men and lesbians detailed in audiotapes collected by veteran reporter John Zeh. Send \$2 (applied to order) for catalog to Box 11212, Washington, DC 20008 (48)

YOUNG CREATIVE WRITERS CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Multicultural anthology of creative writing by young lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. *From Now On* seeks poetry, drama, fiction from writers born in 1966 or later, especially from people of color. Many submissions already received. Send works ASAP to Lowenthal/Wofford, PO Box A-164, Hanover, NH 03755. (42)

BATTERED LESBIANS

Free Boston-area and North Shore support groups for women currently or formerly experiencing physical, emotional, sexual or economic abuse by a woman partner. Call the Network for Battered Lesbians at 617-424-8611 with a safe number and times to reach you. (Voice answering machine; TTY response available.) Call for accessibility and childcare information.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR WRITING?

5 Boston-based writers seek 3 more for newly-formed group. Women and people of color particularly welcome. Gerry 617-395-5094. (40)

MEDITATION RETREAT

For lesbians and gays. First ever on east coast in Vipassana tradition. April 10-12. Led by Arinna Weisman, Eric Kolvig. Contact Bruce (508) 745-2381 (38)

GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL YOUTH

For a list of newsletters, pen pal programs, talk-lines, and other resources, send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with a note requesting the National Resources List to the Youth Outreach Program, 1213 N. Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038. This list is available free to anyone 23 or under.

BATACUDA BELLES

Women's Percussion-Marching Band African-Brazilian, Cuban rhythms-plays wide variety of community events-has openings. All levels of musicianship welcome! Rehearsals 7-9 pm Tuesdays at Graham & Parks School, 15 Upton St, Cambridge. Call Angelamia Bachman for more info. Opening date 3-24-92. (34)

See page 4 for exciting job opportunities at *GCN*.

BAND NEEDED

The Women's Lunch Place (a day shelter for women) is looking for a FUN band to play at our Mother's Day celebration—can you play for free—or close to it??? Please call Maura at 267-1722 (38)

PEACE AND JUSTICE ORGANIZER

Boston Mobilization for Survival, working to oppose U.S. militarism and to promote social and economic justice, seeks head organizer to build grassroots involvement and activism, and to expand our network of members and supporters. Key responsibilities include planning political program and strategy, increasing membership involvement and leadership skills, fundraising and event organizing. Minimum 5 years organizing experience required. Salary \$27,000/yr., plus benefits. Equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Please send resume, two writing samples, and three references to: Boston Mobilization for Survival, c/o Search Committee, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138

DAY/EVENING ATTENDANTS

Personal care attendants to assist disabled couple and friendly dog. No experience necessary, but must have a drivers' license and be dependable, mature energetic. Weekdays or weekends, all shifts. \$200-\$250/wk. Call 731-6228. (38)

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Counseling/Latina Services Coordinator: provide individual and group counseling, coordinate volunteer counselors, network w/Latina community. Bilingual (Spanish), 2 years counseling experience, experience in women's issues and volunteer programs required. \$21-\$23K. Resume and cover letter to BARCC, 99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139. EOE/AA.

Personal care attendants for disabled lesbian art therapist. Alternate weekends Fri. 8am-Mon. 8am (72 hrs) \$325/wknd or Wed. 8am-Fri 8am (48hrs.) \$200/wk clear. Non smoking, woman pref. Must have a drivers' license, be a light sleeper and able to lift. 1 yr commitment. Will train. T accessible location.(617) 524-0921. (38)

Development Director for progressive non-profit legal/educational organization to direct immediate and long term funding program. Excellent benefits. Send resume, salary requirements, extensive cover letter to DD Search Committee, CCR, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. Equal opportunity employer; women, people of color, lesbians/gay men urged to apply. (38)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

3/5 time. Educational advocacy org. seeks Administrative Assistant to work on national AIDS/HIV education project. Asst Director with administration, provide clerical support. Detail-oriented person with word-processing skills who can work independently and as part of a team. Knowledge of AIDS issues and Word Perfect. Spanish desirable. \$14,000. Benefits, generous vacation. Resumes by April 30 to National Coalition of Advocates for Students, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 737, Boston, MA 02116. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. (38)

EARN COMMISSIONS referring clients to us. We advance funds to PWA's in return for their life insurance benefits. American National Investors Corp. 1-800-594-2168. (40)

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

10 for 10

IF YOU PLACE A PERSONAL IN *GCN* BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 1ST, PAY JUST \$10 AND YOUR AD WILL APPEAR EVERY OTHER WEEK FOR 10 WEEKS.*

HEADLINE (optional)

BOLD

max. 30 characters

FLAMER

max. 20 characters

COPY

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☐ *Special offer: 10 for 10 Personals
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\$_____ per ad for 5 runs (10 weeks) \$_____
☐ Flamer \$3.50 ☐ Bold \$2.00 \$_____
(one time cost for 10 for 10 personals 5 runs (10 weeks))

☐ Business:
\$10 for 1st 25 words; .50¢ for each addtl word
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☐ Non-Business:
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Deadline for Classifieds is Friday at 3 p.m. for the next Friday's edition. All ads must be prepaid. All display ads must be camera ready unless alternative plans have been made. No ads accepted over the telephone. Please clip and return this ad form with payment to *GCN Classifieds*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA, 02116. Visa/MasterCard accepted.

CATEGORY

- ☐ 10 FOR 10
☐ PERSONALS
☐ ANNOUNCEMENTS
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☐ HOUSING WANTED
☐ ROOMMATE WANTED
☐ VOLUNTEERS
☐ APARTMENTS
☐ VACATIONS
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☐ ORGANIZATIONS
☐ SERVICES
☐ MOVERS
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Classifieds

VOLUNTEERS

GCN NEEDS YOUR HELP.

GCN began as a volunteer run organization, and we still depend heavily on volunteers. In fact, our survival now depends on more people-power! To find out how you can get involved, call 426-4469 and ask for a volunteer information package. This will give you a better sense of how our office works and the type of help we need. Below are some critical ways to get involved right away.

PLAN A BENEFIT

Enter the thrilling world of events planning. Gain valuable experience while mobilizing the community to support GCN.

PURSUE PROOFREADING

GCN always needs diligent readers to make sure no typos make their way into publication. Are you good at catching errors? This job might provide unique satisfaction for you. Proofing happens on Weds. and Thurs. night every other week. Call for details.

FOR SALE

"TAKE A STAND FOR SEXUAL LIBERATION! SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS!" t-shirts w/pink triangle underneath (S-XL) \$12.00, 2 for \$20.00. Freedom Alliance, P.O. Box 240915, Apple Valley, MN 55124. (30)

JAMAICA PLAIN-EXEL. COND. \$107,500
Charming turn of the century single; 6 1/2 rms; sparkling hdwd flrs; lg. eat-in kit. newer systems and roof; flower garden; close to T; friendly neighborhood. Owner 524-5395. (38)

APARTMENTS

SUNNY VICTORIAN, BRIGHTON

Furnished room in spacious house with lesbian professional couple and 4yo son. W/D, near T. \$375/month or exchange 15 hours childcare and household help for room and board. 254-5929. (42)

SOMERVILLE-DAVIS/PORTER SQ.

Beautiful 2 poss. 3 BR in woman-owned/occ. house. Hdwd flrs, orig. moldings, fireplace, yd. w/d and storage in basement. \$800. 666-0403. (36)

Medford garages for rent. Also 6 large rooms, 3 bdrms and garage near T, enclosed front porch. Hot water, no fee \$650. 396-5639. (40)

2nd floor for rent \$550, 2 bdrm, quiet neighborhood, near Rte. 24 & 495. Call (508) 238-0872 after 6pm. (38)

Fort Hill - \$500, all utilities payed. Studio apt., hdwd floors, eat-in kitchen, on safe and friendly street. Newly remodeled. 445-2013. (38)

So. Shore Restaurant/Pub on busy State Hwy. Large kitchen. Ample parking, 7 day license. Business and Real Estate. Call days. Elaine (617) 770-2481. (36)

SUMMER SUBLET IN J.P.

Large, sunny, furnished 1 bedroom apt. with storage. Looking for responsible person or couple June, July, August. \$450+. 524-3793 (38)

3 BDRM - PONDSIDE JP

Sunny, spacious apartment in lesbian-owned/occupied 2-family house. Quiet, safe neighborhood, blks to Pond and Arboretum. Hardwood. Hardwood floors, porches, washer/dryer available. Fenced yard- dogs okay. Available August 1st. \$875/mo. Call 522-5529 (42)

HOUSING WANTED

DYKE SUBLET NEEDED

Easy-going but responsible lesbian and well-behaved cat seek housing for June, July, Aug.. Pref. J.P, Cambridge, Somerville. I'm a non-smoker, occasional beer-drinker and I don't cook with meat. \$250-300/mo. range. Call 524-9085.

LF 31, seeks sublet April to mid-June. Non-smoking. Boston/Cambridge area. Ruth, 625-4183. (38)

FALL SEMESTER 1992

Graduate student/professional lesbian couple and well-behaved dog seek house of flat to sublet for fall. Cambridge (Harvard Sq.) preferred, rent negotiable (617) 552-3695. (42)

ROOMMATES

Try GCN's Guaranteed Roommate Ad

All roommate and housemate ads that are prepaid for two weeks will run until you find a roommate.

Ads are *not* automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls for renewals will be accepted on Fridays until 3 pm. 426-4469.

JP - 3 MIN. TO ARBORETUM

LF 41 seeks friendly, independent roommate for sunny JP apt. 3rd floor, porch, wash mach. Sorry, no pets. \$275+. Open to temporary housemate or part-time arrangement for out-of-town commuter. 522-2240. (32)

I NEED A ROOMMATE

Seeking LF for Inman Sq. 2Br, 2 floors, Great backyard, off street parking, \$350. Need someone by July 1, available now. Call 625-4277 (42)

3LF seek 4th for spacious Belmont house. Hdwd floors, fireplace, bus line. 25+, friendly, independent, no smoking, no drugs. \$303.75+. Sara or Sandy, 484-8527. Available June 1. (40)

SHARE JP HOUSE

with veg LF 40's and cat, w/d, yd. No smoke, drugs. \$600+ 1/2 util. 522-7661. (40)

LAUGHTER AND POPCORN

Openings for 2 LFs in ecofeminist semi-coop near Davis Sq. Porches, yard, w/d. Smoke, drug and pet-free. Min. alc. Call 628-0878, 623-0703. Avail. now. (44)

JP - PONDSIDE - MAY 1

LF & Bi F seek Lf or BiF for 3 bedroom apt. to share respectful home. Semi-coop. Quiet street near T. Porch, hardwood floors, piano. \$300 + low utilities. No more pets. 524-5933.

DAVIS SQ. - SOMERVILLE

Two lesbians & cat seek woman to share sunny, spacious, 3 bdrm apt. Steps to T. w/d, yard. Alcohol/drug-free space. Rent \$375+. Avail May 1. 666-9644. (40)

MEDFORD

L seeks 2F or lesbian couple to share house. Laundry, no pets or smoking. Safe neighborhood near Tufts. \$250 + util. each. 396-1074. (38)

COMFY 3 BDR HSE/ MEDFORD SQ

l/i couple to share 2 flrs., drvwy, w/d, cable, porch & big yard! Pets ok. No smk/drugs. Avail. now. Sublet poss. \$370 inc. util. 391-7796.

A GREAT HOME FOR \$75

Melrose: Small furnished room w/skylight in large, updated, fine Victorian home. Central air, washer/dryer, offstreet parking, cable, deck, gardens, and many extras. Enjoy the quiet, security, spaciousness of the suburbs while only 17 minutes to downtown Boston from convenient T stop. Nonsmoking male. \$75 weekly including utilities. 665-6082. (42)

SOMERVILLE

Union/Porter Squares. 2F/1M seek 4th. Mixed orientation, 1 non-smoking, mostly veggie, mid-20s-30s, semi-coop/independent. Spacio clean, w/d, porches, garden. Cat. Buses. Available June 1 (sublet or longterm). \$310 (negotiable). 623-7595. (42)

WATERTOWN SQUARE

LF acupuncture student seeks woman to share apt. on river, 2 blocks from Watertown Sq., buses, etc., close to pike. Canoe in basement, outdoor pool down the block. \$337 +. 924-1317

3LF seek nonsmk F for sunny rm in lovely apt. in JP W/D. dishwshr. Near bus, T, Aboretum. \$290 includes all. 522-6266. (32)

TEELE SQUARE, SOMERVILLE

3 lesbians seeks 4th womanist/feminist to share the fun and frustration of creating a home community. Avail Feb. \$275+. 628-7604 (32)

ARLINGTON

LF & F seek F with sense of humor for large sunny apt., w/d, porches, fireplace, pkg., near T. Quiet, no smike, min. drugs/alc. \$310+. 648-4107, 648-8245 (30)

HAVE YOU GOT THE FEVER?

or are you just hot? Why write not a personal and prove it? \$10 buys you 10 weeks to see if anyone else thinks so. For a limited time, your personal can appear five times (ten weeks) for only \$10. See form on page 13 for details.

EAST ARLINGTON—WALK TO T

2 lesbians plus cat seek lesbian 25+ to share our home. Good communication, sense of humor, open to racial diversity. No smoke, drugs, minimum alcohol. Beautiful, spacious apartment. \$340+, 643-2426. (40)

WEST OF BOSTON

LF + dog seeks m/f to share home in country setting. 25 min. to Boston. Lg. yard, deck, pkg., W/D, DW, fireplace, mod. kitchen. 2 private rooms + bath. No smokers. \$450+. Call (508) 655-2623. (30)

SOMERVILLE

March 1st or earlier, 3rd sought by 2 plus cat, 3rd flr. Quaintly beautiful large apt., 100 years old. Wood floors, laundry, clawfoot tub, big porch. Btwn Davis and Union Squares. Quick bus to Davis, Kendall, Lechemere and other T. Clean but relaxed. Good neighborhood, easy parking. We smoke. \$325+. Rachel, Chris or Jenny 776-2811.

3 LF, LARGE HOUSE, JP, SK 4TH

Independent, cooperative household with a sense of humor, a cat, low rent, near Ts and progressive politics seek LF, 27+, non-smoker, minimal alcohol, experience with group living. Available 3/1, 522-7572. (29)

PORTER-DAVIS SQ

2 LF seek F for friendly independent household, nice big apartment, W/D, driveway. No smoke, \$330+, 643-5903. (27)

HARVARD SQUARE AREA

LF seeks 25+ LF, Bi or SF to share 2 bedroom apt. 5 min from Harvard Square. W/D and fireplace. No smoking. \$337.50 utilities included. Call 864-6609

Jamaica Plain. Newly renovated one-bedroom apt in 3-family. Enclosed porch, w/w carpet, lots of skylights. 492-4304 (49)

Professional gay male seeks same to share 2BR in Jamaica Plain. Fully equipped, large, all oak, eat-in kitchen, pantry, W/D, porch, yard, ceiling

fans, new windows, fresh paint, refinished wood floors, one block from orange line. No pets, drugs, partiers. Available 2/1. 731-2205. NO FEE. (27)

MEDFORD

Quiet 2Bdrm. apt. to share, w/d, walk to T. \$300 plu util./mo. 396-5418, 6-8pm. (40)

FEMALE HOUSEMATE

DAVIS SQ (NEAR RED LINE/TUFTS)

Three women (womanist, of varied ages and sexual orientations) seek woman for our sunny, spacious, two floor apartment. Friendly, independent, quiet, homey. Next to laundromat, stores, park. Chem-free. \$300+ utilities, 2 phones, 666-2851, 628-7687. (40)

ROOMMATE NEEDED

2 L's seek 3rd for beautiful J.P. apt. Porch, w/d, short walk to orange line, green line, pond. Available June 1st or earlier. \$316+. 524-8672. (42)

FRIENDLY HOME-SOMERVILLE

2LFs and dogs seek 1LF to share house in Davis Sq. Yard, walk to T. Short- or long-term. No smoke/drugs, minimum alcohol. \$350+. 776-6612. (27)

BIG HOUSE

2 LFs seek 3rd for 3 flr rent controlled house in Cambridgeport. Parking, yard, near T. Bdrm and study for \$286/mo. 661-6771 eves. (hrs)

LOVELY CONVENIENT SPLIT RANCH

3LF and 2 cats (no more please) seek fourth. Suburb, 5 min. to Tufts, 10 to Davis Sq. and Cambridge, near Rt. 93. Lovely 2 1/2 bath home, huge yard, gardens, patio, all amenities, fireplace, storage, parking, separate phone line. Non smoker, 30+ desired. \$300+, security. Available immediately. 729-8438.

QUIET COUNTRY RURAL LIVING.

SLF craftsperon seeks roommate, to occupy furnished room, shared kitchen/bath and washer/dryer. Vegetarian preferred, no smoking, no drugs, pets negotiable. 55 minutes north of Boston. 15 minutes to commuter rail. (603) 432-1081. Anytime. (28)

TEELE SQUARE, SOMERVILLE

3 lesbians seek 4th womanist/feminist to share the fun and frustration of creating a home community. Feb. \$275+ 628-7604 (28)

MAKING A HOME IN EAST ARLINGTON

1 friendly considerate LF seeks 1-2 LF's for really nice, spacious 3-bedroom. Convenient to T. Off street parking. Wood floors, sunny, porches, yard, basement laundry. Own phone line(s). Petless, smokeless. \$385+util. Call 648-0970. (30)

MEDFORD

Lesbian looking for housemate for large 2-BR apartment. Near Tufts, T, laundry, dogs okay. \$350 plus util. Loren 391-1084. (32)

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Seeking woman to share townhouse Exit 8. Sunny, large bedroom/closet, washer/dryer fireplace, dishwasher, some storage. Friendly independent environment. No smoking. \$290+utilities. (603) 886-9445. (32)

ON STREET W/DIVERSITY

GM 40 seeking non-smoker in large sunny flat on 2nd floor. Washer/dryer \$400 includes utils. 524-0095 Near T. (32)

Wakefield 3 bed 2 bath contemporary DW, W&D, cable, parking. Near 128 & 93. \$400.00 mo. includes utilities. Dennis 246-1905. (32)

NORTH CAMBRIDGE

LF seeks F for beautiful, very sunny 2 BR. Friendly, quiet, no smoke, min. drugs/alc. Hrdwd floors, porches, deck. large yard. \$375+, poss. negotiable. 661-8957 (28)

BROOKLINE VILLAGE

2 L seek L 27+ for 7 room apt. ample space. light, airy, w/d work flr, 5 min to T or stores. \$333 includes heat/hw/gas, prkg. 12 steppers, recyclers welcome. No smoke or fur, call 734-3536 (28)

2ND AND 3RD FLOOR IN E. ARLINGTON

2LFs seek 3rd for spacious, sunny 3BR. Yard, porches, laundry, off-street parking, own phone line. No smk/pets. \$400 + util. Call 648-0970 or 648-1724.

NASHUA NH AREA

GWF, 33 sks same or GWM to share twnhse. Must like cats but no more pls. Lg BR, some storage, w/d, deck. \$350 + util. 503-595-2308.

JAMAICA PLAIN

3LF seek LF for spacious house close to Centre street and T. No smoking, no pets. \$300+utilities. 522-8235.

Somerville: Very clean, quiet, private GM, seeks M/F for beautiful apt. No pets, smoke, or drugs. Light cooking preferred, foreign coll. students welcome. \$300.00/mo. plus util. Details? call 625-9438 A.M.

SPACIOUS JAMAICA PLAIN APT.

Looking for two people to share fabulous 3 BR apt. Lots of great features, good location. Near T, 39 bus, Pond. Excellent rent \$300 +. Available May 1 524-7767.

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42 pure essential oils and fragrance oils (patchouly, sandalwood, jasmine, rose, etc.) 1,745.5 oz. retailing for approx. \$12,000. Will sell for \$6,000. One future option for buyer is to resell in half-ounce bottles: 3,491 half-ounces x \$7 for an income of \$24,437. Going back to school, must sell. Call Mindy (Marblehead) (617)639-4017. (40)

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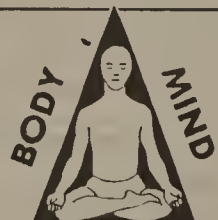
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Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsjournal. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news-on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old and poor women, women of color, lesbians and women from every continent: \$15/11 issues

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NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly Bulletin features news, fiction, letters, art. Confidential mailing list. \$25/year. NAMBLA, POB 174, New York, NY 10018. (44)

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LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

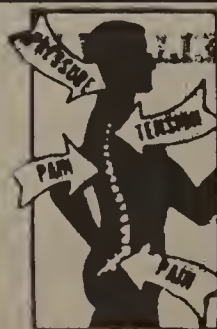
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BROOMSTICK

A quarterly national feminist political journal by, for, and about women over forty. 3543 18th St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110. Yearly subscriptions: U.S. : \$15, Canada, \$20, (U.S. funds). Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sample copy \$5. Free to incarcerated women over forty.

"OH MY COCK"

"One queen, one cock, two balls and the copy machine at work." *Oh My Cock*, the nastiest little gay sex zine, is coming soon. For info, send SASE (legal envelope) to GCN Box OMC. (34)

GAYELLOW PAGES

Accommodations, AIDS/HIV resources, bars, bookstores, various businesses, health care, legal services, organizations, publications, religious groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, & much more, for gay women and men.

All prices below INCLUDE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE to USA, Canada & Mexico, in sealed, discreet envelopes. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

Orders from outside USA (including Canada & Mexico) payment must be in US Funds payable on a US bank, or by Post Office or American Express money order. (We suggest you try a local bookstore first, to avoid possible Customs problems!)

US/CANADA: Canada and USA for women & men. City by city information for all US States, Canadian Provinces, and the US Virgin Islands, plus nationwide resources including headquarters of national organizations and caucuses; publications, mail order companies, etc. \$12.00; outside N. America \$17 (airmail) NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY, NY & NJ, separate Women's Section, Manhattan bar notes by Jerry Fitzpatrick \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

SOUTHERN/Southern Midwest 64 pages. AL, AZ, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NM, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, US Virgin Islands, VA. \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

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PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

MEN

28 year old G/W/M seeking honest, funloving friend to correspond with. It's lonely here - let's write and exchange photos. Chuck Roche, Jr., P. O. Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360

I am 6'2, light brown skin, from Baltimore City, 27 y. o. Trying to find penpals from all over. Leon Saunders #184-210, 401 E. Madison St., Baltimore, MD 02116

I want to meet an honest, concerned person who wishes to share life with someone who has a few shortcomings. Cedric Polite #057161, Florida State Prison, P. O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091

I've been in lock-up for almost one year and need someone to lend a sympathetic ear. Thanks. Michael Wicker, c/o Dunklin County Jail, 200 Slicer St., Kennett, MO 63857

G/W/M seeking any and all serious-minded penfriends. Very lonely and needing someone special in my life. Photo gets mine. David Shorey #094900, Florida State Prison, P. O. Box 747-Q-2-E-2, Starke, FL 32091

My hobbies are studying and writing letters. Favorite subjects are occult: astral projection, telepathy, God, UFO's. . . Will answer all, but can't write other prisoners. Steve Milroy, Arizona State Prison-SPU, P. O. Box B68025, Florence, AZ 85232-0629

Dominant 32 y. o. GBM. Would like to make new friends and exchange letters. Have 3 more years to go behind the "razor wire". Hobbies are walking in the swamps at night with my lover, working out. Pick up your Bic and flick it! Herbert Pool #496963, Ellis II Unit G2116, Huntsville, TX 77340-0002

Looking for penpals. Please write: Steve Grant #C-61258, P. O. Box 2000 1226, Vacaville, CA 95696

My name is Jamie, I'm 24 and alone in prison. I'd like to hear from anyone. Have no family or friends. Please write to: Jamie Sumpter #149313, Box 97, McAlister, OK 74502-0097

SWM, 34, seeks young male penpals with shared interest in NAMBLA. If interested write to: David Tyler #R127-336, P. O. Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001

GWM-27 y. o., brn/brn, wish to correspond with anyone who will write. I'm lonely and need friends. Timothy Ward #515820, Marion Correctional Institution, P. O. Box 158-1129, Lowell, FL 32663

Gay male, 28 y. o. who loves skinny dipping, beaches, and so on. Would like to receive some nice, long letters from lonely guys looking for a girl to add a spark to your lonely nights. Write to: Greg Davis #417552, Eastham Unit, P. O. Box 16, Lovelady, TX 75851

I am a gay male seeking correspondance from others. Please write: Bryant Sartore #094571, P. O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083

Man of color, 6 ft., 196 lbs., into bodybuilding, reading and one-on-one relationships. Incarcerated at present and have no relationships. If you are sincere with an understanding heart, I would love

to hear from you. Will answer all. James A. Harris, 88-A-3925, P. O. Box 149, Attica, NY 14011

GWM 31, seeks mature, intelligent, academically inclined father figure to correspond with. I am lonely and would very much like to make a real friend. Your photo gets mine. Alex C. Ewing #20866, Nevada State Prison, P. O. Box 1989, Ely, NV 89301

GWM 31, 6'4 muscular 190 lbs., reddish-brown hair, green eyes. To be released 7/28/92; seeks fem. gay male, TV or TS any age or race for serious relationship. Sincerity important. Chris Leonard #98621, Camp A Line 21 B 4, LA State Penitentiary, Angola LA 70712

I'm an inmate at GA State Prison, looking for penpals. Please write: Francois Mingo, E. F. 226322, M-3-8/1, HCO-1, Reidsville, GA 30499

Attractive GWM, 24, 6'2, 190 lbs., brn/brn. I like dining out, camping in the mountains, walking on the beach, music. Shy at times but easygoing and laid back. Please write and I'll tell you more. James Wilson #108358, Hardee Correctional Institution, Rte. 2, Box 200, Bowling Green, FL 33834

Lonely GWM, 26, would like to hear from mature, older GWM's for friendship and hopefully a lasting relationship. Locked down now but hope to be out in mid-'93. Seek that special person to settle down with. Write: Jonathan Lakey #85630, P. O. Box 128 K. S. P., Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

Lonely white male, 29, brn/bl eyes, in need of a penpal. To learn more about me please write: Mark Skinner #93761, P. O. Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038

Hi, my name is Tim. I am 26, 5'8, 145, bl/bl. Interested in having someone to write to, and I'm hoping you can help me out. Thank you very much! Timothy Russell #58160 302-65, P. O. Box 3535, Norco, CA 91760

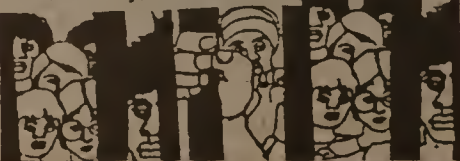
GWM 21, 6', 185, brn/hzl, HIV-, seeking male companions. Sincere, honest, enjoys reading, writing. Will answer all w/photo. Thank you. Anthony Bernard #R152-116, P. O. Box 740, London, OH 43140

I am a 41 y. o. Black bisexual who would like to hear from someone from out there in the free world. I seek sincerity. Please write soon to: Robert Lee Anderson, 1640 Hicks Street, Augusta, GA 30904

White male, very attractive and masculine, early 20's, 5'11, 185 lbs. Enjoys sports, movies, working out. Seek adult male for quality relationship, fun times, honest companionship. Will answer all. Write: Maxie Turner, Box 581-068068, 1150 S. W. Allapattah Rd., Indiantown, FL 34956

WOMEN

My name is Ana Roman, nickname is "Apache". Am gay, real aggressive and looking for good, feminine woman, Black, Puerto Rican, Indian or White. Like sports and hiking. Love women who like sports. Write: Ana Roman #0A8822, P. O. Box 180, Muncy, PA 17756



Calendar

8 FRIDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB couples' rap: "Planning for the Future," 8pm, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Libidum Liberata (gay/les/bi theatre company) presents 5 new plays at The Center, 338 Newbury Street, May 8 & 9 at 7:30pm. Tix \$8 at door.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Queer Nation poster brigade posts queer images in public places. 6:30-7pm. Info: (603) 436-5325

Peterborough, NH ♦ Patty Larkin at the Folkway. \$15. Info: (603) 924-7484

Attleboro ♦ Hat night/potluck spon. by Triboro Triangles, area ass'n for les/gay/bi & friends, 7:30pm, Larson Ctr., 25 S. Main St. (corner Rt. 152/123). \$3; members free. Info: SASE to: PO Box 2751, Attleboro Falls 02763. (508) 223-4636 (voice); (508) 223-4637 (ttd).

9 SATURDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB singles play cards. Bring deck. No gambling. 7pm, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ♦ *Raft* of the *Medusa* AAC benefit performance by the New Theatre. At Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. 8pm. \$20 incl. reception. Info: 247-7388

Newton ♦ Gaylaxians (gay/les/bi sci-fi fans) monthly mtg./party, 1pm. Info/transportation: (508) 838-2121.

New York, NY ♦ Lavender Light Gospel Choir Spring Concert, 7pm, Friends Mtg. House, 221 E. 15th St. Signed. \$10 advance/\$15 door. PWAs free. Tix at Oscar Wilde, Judith's Room, Mosaic Books.

Boston ♦ BLAB, Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston social ride (about 20 miles) Info: Ellen 595-0507

Northampton ♦ Lesbian Liberation Rally, 1pm (donation requested). Alix Dobkin concert 8pm (\$15/door). Dance 10pm. At Northampton Center for the Arts. ASL, accessible, no scents please. Info, directions: Sidney, (413) 773-0888

Northampton ♦ 11th Annual Lesb./Gay/Bi Pride March. Assemble at Lampron Park 11:30am. Info: (413) 586-5000

Boston ♦ "Positive Energy," variety show AIDS benefit. 8pm, Eli Student Ctr., Blackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave. \$10. Info: 437-5426

Boston ♦ Coro Allegro (formerly Ars Nova, chorus for lesb./gay/friends) performs at Tsai Performance Ctr., Boston Univ., 685 Commonwealth Ave. Tix at Glad Day, Arborway Video & Sound, Tsai Performance Ctr., Sanders Theatre BO, or charge at 496-2222. \$7.50-\$17.50.

Boston ♦ All Kinds of Families Celebration 11am-3pm, Franklin Park playstead area between zoo and stadium. Entertainment, food, raffle. Accessible, Interpreted. Free. Info 863-0435; tty 254-4041

Jamaica Plain ♦ Sara Cytron, lesbian stand-up comedian, at Crones' Harvest, 761 Centre St. 8pm. \$7. Info: 983-9530 tty/vo

Cambridge ♦ Country/western/swing dance w/Jackie Lee Williams Band. 8:15-midnight; Texas two-step lesson 8:15-9pm. Smoke/alcohol free. No partner nec. \$6. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Harvard Sq. Info: 629-2219

10 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ DOB Wild Women go sailing at Community Boating. Info: 625-9551.

Concord, NH ♦ CAGLR legislative action mtg. 6:30pm. 3 Pleasant St., 2nd fl. Info: PO Box 816, Concord 03302-0816.

Boston ♦ Lesbian Mothers' Day Gathering for moms and kids, 1pm at Arnold Arboretum. Info: Cindy, 267-0900 x209

Western suburbs ♦ MetroWest GALA potluck, 6pm. Info, directions: Barbara, (508) 653-2509

Oregon ♦ Deadline for registration for Walk Against Hate, 150-mile, two-week walk from Eugene to Portland on June 7. Info: Anne: (503) 321-5184, Donna (503) 223-0071

11 MONDAY

Boston ♦ "Impact of a Decade of Loss on the Human Spirit," report by Eric Rofes at First & Second Church, 64 Marlborough St. (at Berkeley). 7-9pm. Spons. by Fenway Comm. Health Ctr. Info: 267-0900.

Portland, OR ♦ Deadline to apply for women writers' workshops, July 26-Aug. 2 and Aug. 31-Sept. 7. On McKenzie River in Oregon Cascades. \$475up; scholarships avail. Info: stamp to Flight of the Mind, 622 S.E. 29th Ave., Portland 97214.

New York, NY ♦ Margaret Whiting & Anne Francine with Jack Wrangler: benefit appearance for People w/AIDS Coalition. 8:00 pm at The Ballroom, 253 W. 28th St. \$20 + 2-drink min. Info: (212) 532-0290; res: (212) 244-3005.

Boston ♦ "Gynecological Issues in HIV Infection." 5:30-7pm, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Duncan-Reed Room. Admission free. Co-sponsored by Boston AIDS Consortium. For more info 432-0885.

12 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Deadline for entries to ARTkammer exhibition by gay/lesb. artists. Opening June 12. Info: 423-3933

Boston ♦ Healing Service for all affected by AIDS. 7:30pm. Free-will offering. Reception. ASL, accessible. Trinity Church, Copley Square. Info: 536-0944

13 WEDNESDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ Goddess Gospel in concert. Fundraiser for Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights. \$10. Complimentary food, door prize. 7:30 pm, Crones' Harvest, 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530 tty/tdd

Cambridge ♦ DOB 35 +/- rap, 8pm, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston meets at 7pm, Fenway Community Health Ctr., 7 Haviland St. Info: Ellie, 625-4638

Concord, NH ♦ Little Shop of Horrors benefit for NH AIDS Foundation by the Concord Players. 8pm, Concord Civic Auditorium. Tix \$10 in Manchester at Herbert's Music Mart, 934 Elm St., or NH AIDS Found., 102 Middle St. Info: (603) 623-0710

14 THURSDAY

Dorchester ♦ Voices Gotta Scream Louder!! Performance by Strand Teen Players about AIDS and other issues. Thru Saturday, 7:30pm, Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd. \$5/adults; \$2 child/ student/senior. Free parking. Info: 282-9000

Boston ♦ Lesb./gay/bi group forming to work within Democratic party. Kickoff mtg 7pm, Piemonte Rm., Boston City Hall. Info: Barbara 536-7551

Boston ♦ Psychological Aspects of HIV Infection, 7-9pm, John Hancock Conf. Ctr., 2nd fl., 40 Trinity Pl. (at Stuart St.). Spons. by Fenway Comm. Health Ctr. Info: 267-0900

Peterborough, NH ♦ Ferron at the Folkway. \$18. Info: (603) 924-7484

Boston ♦ Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown hosts silent auction/ benefit 6-9pm at Wintergarden Bldg., 222 Berkeley St., Boston. \$35. Food, libations, music. Info: Susan (508) 487-9960

Cambridge ♦ Lesbians Choosing Children Network, 7:30pm, Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. Free. Info: 354-8807 (tty/voice)

Dorchester ♦ Dorchester Gay/Lesb. Alliance monthly business mtg. at Gelber-Bigson Health Center, South Boston, 7pm. Info: 825-3737

Boston ♦ Greater Boston Business Council's monthly Networking Party. 5:30pm, Top of the Hub (Prudential Tower). \$4 guests/\$2 members.

Boston ♦ Meeting to organize Boston Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade & Rally. Newcomers welcome. 7:00pm, Boston Center for Lesbians & Gay Men, 338 Newbury St. Wheelchair accessible. For more info 262-3149.

15 FRIDAY

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Ferron at Portsmouth Music Hall. 8pm. Info: (603) 436-2400

Boston ♦ Information & Merchandise Vendors for Boston Lesb./Gay Pride Rally must apply by today to Jack Hurley, 241-3754.

Boston ♦ HEART STRINGS, An Event in 3 Acts. AIDS benefit, thru 17th. Performance 8:30pm at Colonial Theatre. \$17.50-\$35 at box office/Ticketmaster. Credit card orders: 931-2000. Also, see AIDS Quilt May 15-17 at Northeastern University's Mathews Arena. Info: Leslie A. Tweeton, Hotel Meridien, 451-1900.

16 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ HEART STRINGS benefit for AIDS groups. Black tie reception 6pm at State House, followed by performance at Colonial Theatre (see May 15 listing), and cast party at CityPlace in Transportation Bldg. \$175, or \$75 for Saturday's performance and post-party only. Info: Leslie A. Tweeton, Hotel Meridien, 451-1900.

Provincetown ♦ Getaway Weekend for Lesbian Lawyers & Legal Workers. Fri.-Sun. Drinks Sat. 7pm. Moors Motel offers discount. Info: (617) 483-3685

Watertown ♦ DOB Women's Tennis, 9am, courts behind Arsenal Mall. Info: Laura, 628-1038.

Boston ♦ Prime Timers (older gay men) monthly mtg. 2-4pm at Lindemann Health Ctr., 25 Stanford St. \$1. Info: 262-8685

Boston ♦ "Once Upon Our Time" Multicultural story hour for children of gay/lesb. parents. Fenway Community Health Ctr., 7 Haviland St. 10-11:15am. Donation requested. Info: 267-0900 x282

Worcester ♦ P-FLAG Northeast Regional Convention: "Celebrate Youth." Speakers and workshops. 10am-5pm, United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. \$10. Parking avail. Reservations: 757-6962

Boston ♦ Animation: open call screening at The Boston Film and Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. Sponsored by Blackburst Multimedia. \$5, includes reception. For more info/showtimes, call Gigi Piccillo or Suzanne Taylor, 859-1822.

Plum Island ♦ North Shore Gay/Lesb. Alliance Bird Watching 2pm. Meet at Sportsman's Lodge. Bring stamps for entry if you have them. We carpool into the sanctuary. Info: (508) 927-2903

Waltham ♦ Annual spring flea market to benefit Support Committee for Battered Women. Baked goods, raffle. 9am-2pm. Free parking. St. Mary's Church, Lexington St. Info: Robin, 891-0724

Jamaica Plain ♦ Best of the Open Mic at Crones' Harvest, 761 Centre St. 8pm. \$5. Comedy, music, performance art. Info: 983-9529

Boston ♦ Lavender Society, Greater Boston's newly formed lesb./gay garden club, sponsors trip to Arnold Arboretum. Meet at Visitor's Ctr. near entrance at noon. Info: Holly or Dawn, 647-0147

Provincetown ♦ Provincetown Positive/People with AIDS Coalition sponsors A Visit with Dr. Bihari, 1-5pm, Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Fl. Roundtable follows. Free. Info: (508) 487-3998

17 SUNDAY

Exeter, NH ♦ NH AIDS Foundation auction & ball, 2pm at Storming Chef Restaurant, 237 Water St. \$20. Info: (603) 642-5711 or (603) 772-5590.

Lawrence ♦ Walk for Women's Safety sponsored by Women's Resource Ctr. of Lawrence and Haverhill. Registration begins 8:30am at Pemberton Park, next to WRC's office, 454 Canal St. 5-mile walk begins 10:15am. Info: (508) 685-2480

Salem ♦ North Shore Gay/Lesb. Alliance Softball/picnic at Mack Park (Ledge Hill Park), 1-5pm. BBO fire provided. Info: (508) 927-2903

18 MONDAY

Boston ♦ Mtg. to explore fundraising/financing for gay organizations. Incl. discussion of possible gay credit card. 7pm, Piemonte Rm., Boston City Hall. Spons. by David Scodras.

Cambridge ♦ Jack Veasey, gay poet, reads at TT the Bear's Place in Central Square. 8pm open mic, 8:30 reading. \$3.00. Info: 265-3929

19 TUESDAY MAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB coming out rap: "The 'L' Word," 8pm, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Info: 661-3633.

20 WEDNESDAY M

Cambridge ♦ DOB play reading. Bring your copy of Lillian Hellmann's *The Children's Hour*. 8pm, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Info: 262-3724.

Boston ♦ Seminar to answer financial, legal, insurance, job-related questions of HIV+ people. 6:30-8:30pm, Rm. 401, AIDS Action Committee, 131 Clarendon St. Confidentiality assured. Info: Ellen West, 437-6200, ext. 281

21 THURSDAY

Cambridge ♦ Jack Veasey, gay poet, reads at Bookcellar Cafe, 1971 Mass Ave, Porter Square. 7pm open mic, 8pm reading. Free. Info: 265-3929

Boston ♦ Support/Disussion for HIV-neg gay/bi men, 7-9pm, Fenway Comm. Health Ctr., 7 Haviland St., Rm. 201. Info: 267-0900.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ 40+ Lesbians. Social group sponsoring potlucks, billiards, plays, brunches, new members welcome. For more info 891-3711, 599-4472.

Boston ♦ Prime Timers (older gay men) meets monthly. Info: 262-8685.

Cambridge ♦ Swingtime. Monthly lesbian, gay, bi swing dance with authentic big band sound. First Sat. of month. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mss. Ave. 8:15-9pm. \$8 includes refreshments. For more info 629-2219.

Boston ♦ BLOW (Boston's Leathermen On Wheels). New social club for gay motorcyclists now forming. For more info and location 783-9296.

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers \$1.00. 10am. Also: Tues. 11:45pm. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 pm. at Hatch Shell; Sun. 3:00pm. at Jamaica Pond Boathouse. Info: Sara 524-4025.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 pm. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6 pm. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime—Boston G/L TV, with Bill Barnet & Cynthia Pace. 7:30 pm Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, Mondays, 7 pm; and Somerville Cable Access Channel 3, Thursdays, 9 pm.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 pm. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Couples Group, 11am-1pm last Saturday each month, Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Free. For info: Marcia (508) 531-8670 or (617) 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Morgan Memorial Goodwill Auction, 2nd Sat. each month. Previews 9am; Auctions 10am-1pm. 1010 Harrison Ave. Free. Info: 445-1010.

SUNDAYS

Woburn ♦ Chiltern Tennis Assoc. Meets each Sun. for singles and doubles. For more info (508) 670-0988.

Boston ♦ Pynk Panther Patrol of Greater Boston general meeting, 4:30pm alternate Sundays; also 3pm defense training at Boston Common nr. Park St. fountain. Info: 499-9558

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Gay Parents of Adolescents support group at Fenway Comm. Health Ctr., 7 Haviland Street. Last Sun. each month, Mar-May, noon-2pm. Daycare avail. Adolesc. meet separately. Info: Jennifer, 267-0900, x282.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 pm G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 pm. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 pm; volleyball 6 pm 'til dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 pm. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. LGM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 pm. 247-2927.

Northampton ♦ 1992 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Pride March Steering Committee meets 2-5pm at The Family Planning Council's 3rd floor conference room. Public also welcome. Accessible. Info, donations: PO Box 280, Hadley, MA 01035.

Concord, NH ♦ P-FLAG support session 3rd Sundays. 3-5pm, First Congregational Church, N. Main St.

MONDAYS

Monadnock, NH ♦ P-FLAG support session 4th Mondays 7-8:30pm, Keene United Church of Christ. Info: (603) 772-3893

Manchester, NH ♦ ACT UP/NH. Meets Mondays. For info/locations: (603) 746-3923.

Jamalca Plain ♦ Lesbians' Job Search Support Group, 1-2:30pm at Crones' Harvest, 761 Centre St. Info: Sally, 524-0725.

Boston ♦ New Support Group for Recovering Women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Women, Inc. Call Magda or Christine for a screening interview 442-6166.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at new location: Local 26, 58 Berkeley, 3rd Floor. 7:00 pm.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 pm. (508)755-3773.

Cambridge ♦ Partners/Lovers or Former Partners/Lovers of Incest Survivors. 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, 7-8:30pm, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street. Free. For more Info 354-8807.

Amesbury ♦ ACOA: 12-step mtg. for adult children of alcoholics/dysfunctional families. For gays, lesb., friends. St. James Episcopal Church, 120 Main St., 7-8:30pm. Info: Donna (508) 388-3936, Jano (207) 439-2092

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap (topics vary) 7:30-9pm, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Free. For more Info 354-8807 (TTY/Voice)

TUESDAYS

Boston ♦ "The Woman Poet." Local women poets read their work in a social setting every Tuesday. 7:30pm. Donation requested. G/L Center, 338 Newbury St. For more info 247-2927, 247-0579.

Seacoast NH ♦ P-FLAG support session 1st Tues. each month 7:30-8:30pm, Stratham Community Church.

Cambridge ♦ Afternoon bicycling with Outriders (Chiltern Mountain Club cyclists). Departs Harvard Sq. Info: Bob, 266-3812.

Framingham ♦ Fram. Regional Alliance of Gay/Lesb. Youth meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 6-7:30pm at Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. Info: FRAGLY, PO Box 426, Framingham 01701.

Somerville ♦ Mtg. w/Mayor's Liaison to les/gay/bi community 2nd Tues each month at 7pm, 167 Holland St. Info: Christopher at 625-6600 x2400.

Boston ♦ Tefillat Refuat Hanefesh. "Service of the Healing of the Soul," for Jewish Patients, their families and healthcare providers. First Tues. of month. 6pm. For more info 566-3960.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. Meetings held 1st and 3rd Tues. of month. Lindemann Center, 25 Stanford St. \$2 donation. 8-10pm. For info 742-7897.

Boston ♦ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. 2nd Tues. of month, Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. For more info 424-6989.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Batucada Belles rehearsal. Open to women of color. Multicultural Arts Center, Centre St. 7-9pm. For more info 864-5067.

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and

Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subet. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Eating Awareness and Body Image Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-9pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap. 7-8:30pm at the Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. Free. Info: 354-8807 (tty/voice)

Medford Radio ♦ Dyke on the Mike with the Noisy Nelly Show — queer radio. WMFO 91.5FM.10am-12pm. Tufts U. radio. For info 381-3800.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

Boston ♦ The Buddy Program orientation. Sponsored by AAC. 4th Tues. of month. AAC offices, 131 Clarendon St. 7:30pm. For more info 437-6200 x450.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap (topics vary) 7-8:30pm, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Free. For more info 354-8807 (TTY/Voice)

Boston ♦ Beantown Women's Rugby Club practice Tues/Thurs 6:30-9pm. All levels. For more info: Teresa at 787-3939/Laurie at 623-2341 (lv msg).

Framingham ♦ Framingham Regional Alliance of Gay/Lesb. Youth meets 2st & 3rd Tues. each month, 6-7:30pm at The Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. For 22 & under. Info: FRAGLY, PO Box 426, Framingham 01701.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Women in the Building Trades will be offering free introductory workshops. 6:00-8:00pm from 10/30-12/4. At 555 Amory St. Call 524-3010 to pre-register or for info.

Cambridge ♦ Job search support group. Cambridge Women's Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. Info: 354-8807.

Amherst ♦ ACT-UP of Western Mass., meets 7:30pm at Bangs Comm. Ctr., 70 Boltwood Walk. Info: (413) 584-4213

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 pm.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 pm. (800) 42-BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413)788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support grp. for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Amherst ♦ Queer Nation meets 6:00-7:00pm at Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk. Info: P.O. Box 202, Hadley, MA 01035 or (413) 584-4213.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Alanon 6:30-8pm at Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. Accessible. Info: 354-8807 (tty/voice).

Cambridge ♦ Ovary Action, a Women's Group of Queer Nation, invites new members. 2 Wed./month at The Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807 (tty

INDIGO

CAMBRIDGE, MA.

The best in live entertainment continues:

Saturday, May 2nd • 8pm

Boston comic Tony V.

portion of proceeds to be contributed to
Comics Against Gang Violence

ALL TICKETS
ON SALE NOW

STARTING THIS FRIDAY, AS REQUESTED...

music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s
with D.J. Christina. No cover til 10:30pm,
\$3.00 after 10:30pm

Alexis Griswold's Glass Art

will be displayed in the Indigo Art Gallery during the month of
May. Opening reception will be Friday, May 8th from 7-9pm

NO COVER on Thursdays

NO COVER on Fridays & Saturdays 'til 10:30

Thursday 4pm-2am, Friday 4pm-2am, Saturday 9pm-2am
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*The critics are raving (mad) about WALE's new
lesbian, gay, bisexual affairs talk show.:*

"I'm so glad all of the other churches have their
shows because this is just garbage. Garbage!"

"They should put all you gay people on a boat and
sink the boat."

"I'm straight and I love this show and I'm going to tell
everyone I know about this show."

"I'm a lesbian and I love this show and I'm going to
tell everyone I know about this show."

"Everyone knows that homosexuality was started in
England. It's the English who started it all."

"You two are the most articulate and intelligent
people I've heard on this topic, but your getting too
pushy. I've lost all respect for you. Mike Connors,
you've gotten too pushy."

"Do lesbians use dildoes, and if so, isn't it just a
substitute for a man?"

"What is this show?"

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*Gay men of color and HIV-positive gay men
are particularly welcome!*

Friday, May 29th, 8-11 PM

AIDS ACTION Committee

131 Clarendon Street, 4th floor, Boston

*Free admission, but space is limited. To reserve a space,
please call (617) 437-6200, ext. 499*